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Peru

Lima TV carries President Fujimori's Labor Day address to the nation in which he says that his government remains committed to making "structural changes" that will allow the country "to bypass bureaucracy, inefficiency, unproductivity, and corruption" in its path toward "development and modernization." Fujimori says that his commitment is so strong that he has been obliged to issue "exceptional and transitory measures to ensure that the national reconstruction project" would not halt. In another speech, President Fujimori announces his plans for reorganization of the judicial branch so it can "act severely and speedily" against terrorists and for the passage of a decree that will ensure that the criminals receive life sentences, Lima radio reports.

Proceedings are underway to charge Maximo San Roman, proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, with illegal usurpation of power, Lima TV reports. As a result of recent decrees issued by Fujimori's government, San Roman could face four to seven years in prison.

Lima radio carries a statement by Colonel Carlos Portillo Vasquez, chief of El Pato Air Base, that the Peruvian pilots who intercepted a U.S. plane acted "in accordance with the law and international air navigation regulations."

El Salvador

San Salvador radio carries an FMLN General Command communique announcing that "in accordance with the peace agreements, as of 1 May, the FMLN will officially become a political party."

In another communique broadcast over the newly legalized Radio Venceremos, the FMLN condemns the continuous acts of harassment, ranging from incursions by infantry forces to airspace violations, and charges that the "maneuvers are a clear attempt to block the normal implementation of the peace agreements."

Brazil

Petrobras President Ernesto Weber confirms that an oil exploration contract will be signed with Cuba in the near future, O GLOBO reports.

Venezuela

NOTIMEX reports that strikes and labor conflicts precede the commemoration of Labor Day in Caracas, while students continue to stage isolated protests at the Central University of Venezuela. Groups on strike or planning to strike include state doctors, electrical utility workers, and telephone workers. Labor union protest marches are also planned during the holiday celebrations. Defense Minister Ochoa reaffirms in an interview on Caracas TV that militarily speaking, there is "truly total normalcy."

Haiti

The tripartite meeting of Army, National Assembly and executive branch rejects the Washington agreement based on the verdict of the Court of Cassation, Port-au-Prince radio reports.

Cuba

Official Calls President Bush 'Rude, Unethical'

PA0105042892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2109 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Acapulco, 29 April (NOTIMEX)—Jose Ramon Fernandez Alvarez, the vice president of the executive committee of the Cuban Council of Ministers [responsible for the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation; Cuban Institute of Radio and Television; and the Academy of Sciences], called U.S. President George Bush "rude and unethical" for the speech he delivered to university students in Florida.

"I am sure President Bush would not be a good soothsayer or seer because, despite the 30 years of U.S. blockade against it, the Cuban Revolution is stronger today than ever before," Fernandez stated.

George Bush received an honorary doctorate degree for his leadership qualities on 27 April. At the event, Bush told 1,600 Florida International University graduates that "the day will come when Cuba will be democratic," and he proclaimed: "In the nineties, Fidel capsizes."

The U.S. President also asserted that pressure against the island will be maintained. He added: "We will continue to implement the strict embargo that makes us the defenders of human rights causes."

Fernandez Alvarez commented on the hardening of the blockade announced by Bush on 18 April. The Cuban official said: "We do not know if this position is taken out of conviction, or if it is merely political opportunism" but "forcing Cuba to bend is not easy because the rest of the nations are with us."

"I do not doubt that the United States can take economic or other type measures against those who have relations with the island, but I also do not doubt that the Cuban Revolution has the vitality, energy, enthusiasm, and moral reserves to continue with its project," he asserted.

"Although all comparisons are hateful, there are cities in terrible poverty belts in the imperialist monster," Fernandez stated.

"We do not have very rich people or very poor people. We, however, do have a reasonable distribution of goods, services, and resources," he added.

The Cuban official was interviewed in the framework of the first Pan-American Sport Olympics Convention and the 29th Pan-American Sports Organization General Assembly being held at the Mexican Pacific Acapulco port.

The official noted that the Cuban people have a deep respect for President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for his consistency, understanding, and friendly policy toward Cuba.

"We are very fond of Mexico, which is the only country in the continent to have held a firm stand and confronted U.S. pressures. It never broke its relations with Cuba," he said.

"We admire the Mexicans' fighting spirit as well as their spirit of justice and work," Fernandez added.

Escalona on Electoral Changes, Economic Problems

FL0105011692 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign reporters accredited in Cuba met today with Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. For almost two hours, the main topics discussed were the election process in the country, and Cuba's current economic problems in the midst of an economic embargo. The president of the Cuban parliament said that the main objective of this process will be to create the conditions necessary [words indistinct] for provincial and municipal governments to have a controlling role in the state, and for the assemblies to represent the spirit of the people.

Escalona explained, in order of importance, the constitutional changes which will take place in Cuba. Among these are the implementation of direct and secret vote for all electoral positions; and economic flexibility on foreign investments, without surrendering our socialist principles.

Castro Speaks on Completion of Potato Harvest

FL3004134092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A ceremony marking the end of the potato harvest in Havana Province was held this afternoon at the Victory Smiles Camp in Guira de Melena Municipality with our commander in chief. After recognizing the best agricultural production enterprises and cooperatives in the potato harvest, our commander in chief spoke to those present. At the beginning, he considered the efforts made, especially by university students, in the fields of Havana.

[Begin Castro recording] Some of these schools have a majority of female students, which although they make a big effort, there is a certain number of tasks that they cannot perform, physical tasks that are very hard. They can do them, but they cannot do them with the same productivity as men. We must say that the behavior of the university students, in general, has been excellent, excellent [repeats] [words indistinct]. So, for example, when medical students were mobilized, more than 5,000 of them, a tremendous emulation was established. All the chiefs and leaders were with them. They did a great job, really, in the potato harvest. They came during the right weeks, between 15 March and 29 March. They did a great job. I saw them and I visited them, and it was wonderful to see them.

The week after that—because not all the students can come during the same two weeks—fourth and fifth year students from the Salvador Allende School were sent to the camp [words indistinct]. I regret having to mention them, but I mention them because they did not act the same as the rest of the students. Staff members of the Salvador Allende School were not mobilized. When the 5,000 students were mobilized there was a superior spirit. They worked in Batabano. The potatoes were hard, and they had to be harvested or there would be losses. Those students (?discussed the problem) and the rest of the camp [words indistinct]. There was no mobilization of the 5,000 students, or that great emulation context which had been established in the previous mobilization. These comrades saw the potatoes there, and instead of working until noon on Sunday, as they were supposed to, they left at 0900. They were just fooling around.

I immediately got in touch with the comrades of the student federation. They met with them. We must say that the dean of the school is exemplary in her conduct with the staff. They were not spurrred by the spirit of the mobilization of the previous weeks, and they did not work hard. Nevertheless, students from that same school arrived at the camp for the next two-week period and were aware of the poor work that the previous group had done. They decided to restore the honor of the school, and they did a great job. I must add, so I do not leave anyone out, even though there may still be others....[rephrases] I cannot be sure that I am not leaving someone out, like the language students, who were not the best. They were out in Alquizar. There were students from the art department of the teachers college who also did not work hard. Therefore, from this stand we should congratulate and encourage those who did a great job, but we should also criticize those who did not make their best effort. I say this not with the objective of criticizing people [words indistinct] because I know that these people have pride. [end recording]

Furthermore, Fidel spoke about the work standards, which in his opinion at times were low in comparison with what could really have been done by the mobilized students.

[Begin Castro recording] In other words, these are isolated cases. From what I have heard, the general behavior of the university students has been excellent, as a rule. The work by the secondary students in agriculture has been excellent, even though not all schools are the same. There are some that are outstanding, and others that are less outstanding. I will repeat that this depends on the directors, the teachers, the example of those who [words indistinct]. I can see that the contingents and the camps of mobilized workers have been an extraordinarily good influence on these students. We can see the influence of the spirit of our workers mobilized from the capital and Havana Province, in contingents and two-week mobilizations, and how they have influenced these students (?with their spirit).

The ministry has a much more understanding position. The Education Ministry does not [word indistinct] to stay at home for three days [words indistinct]. We can create a society of intellectuals. A country that gives everyone the opportunity to study will become a society of intellectuals who reject manual work, and then who will do it? Before, slaves did it. Then, in Cuban society before the victory of the revolution, the unemployed and those dying of hunger did it. They were the ones who did the work. In the developed capitalist countries, the immigrants do it, immigrants from Latin America who go to the United States and other countries, to the north. In Europe, immigrants from Africa and Asia are the ones who work the hardest.

What are we doing if we do not teach these young people, these teenagers, to work with their hands but only fill them up with intellectual knowledge and theoretical knowledge? There cannot be a truly revolutionary educational system if it does not educate young people in work. I repeat, we cannot do this through paternalism, with easy standards [word indistinct]. People give what is asked of them, and we must ask this of everyone, those mobilized to the camps for two weeks and the contingents, the secondary school students working in agriculture, and the university students. I am speaking at a time when everything has changed. I am speaking at a time when people are expressing an extraordinary spirit. [end recording]

Bank Robbers Found Guilty, Sentenced to Prison

FL3004135192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by Efrain Cervantes]

[Text] On 23 November 1990, an unusual and unprecedented event took place in the capital of Ciego de Avila Province: the theft of 1,664,000 pesos from a vault at the central bank. It seemed that the authorities would never catch the perpetrators of this crime. Nevertheless, after a year and almost five months, the two principle perpetrators and nine other defendants have been sentenced by the Ciego de Avila Provincial Court in a trial which lasted two days. The court was composed of two lay and three professional judges, while seven lawyers defended the accused. Together with the prosecutor, they exhausted all the standards and legal procedures in existence.

Two brothers, Morlay and Alfonso Nodal Pozo, were sentenced to 20 and 19 years in prison, respectively, upon being found guilty of being the principle perpetrators of this theft as well as stealing another $20, illegal possession of firearms, and trying to leave the country illegally. During the time following the theft, these citizens dedicated themselves to an ostentatious and wasteful life, as well as to acquiring objects and material goods, thereby involving the other nine defendants, seven of whom reside in Havana City. Together they devised a plan to illegally leave the country.

The other prison sentences were as follows: Angel Alfonso Pozo, father of the principle perpetrators, received five years; Mario Casanova Carrera and Juan Valentin Perez received six years; Osmany Lopez Mirabal received four years; Alain Cajarabia Jimenez received four years and six months. Michel Lopez Valendi was sentenced to a year of correctional labor with imprisonment, Nidia Carrera Rodriguez to three years correctional labor without imprisonment, Juan Carlos Brioso to two years correctional labor without imprisonment, while Barbara Alvarez Vasquez was fined 500 pesos.

The patient work by the Ministry of the Interior and now the hearing have shown and proven their criminal activities, the main ones being: armed robbery, [word indistinct], concealment, receiving [stolen goods], noncompliance with the duty to report a crime, illegal possession and carrying a firearm and explosives, and attempting to leave the country illegally.

Raul Castro Concludes Guantanamo Tour

FL0105115192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], and the Politburo commission which he heads have concluded their visit to Guantanamo. Raul Castro gave the closing speech at the concluding session of the work meetings of the Politburo, which toured Guantanamo Province from 9 to 12 April.

In his speech, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces spoke of issues of great interest such as cadres policy, the party's work style and methods, and the progress in fulfilling the instructions from our commander in chief for the special period. The agricultural and food program occupied a predominant place in Raul's speech. Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura presented a report on the tour pointing out the positive elements and the deficiencies noted in work, educational, and scientific centers, as well as in the communities and houses they visited.

The plenum of the expanded PCC provincial committee in Guantanamo debated with great interest the recommendations made in the report in order to overcome the subjective problems. During these work visits, Division General Ulises Rosales headed the group that visited Baracoa and Maisi Municipalities. Machado Ventura visited Guantanamo and Caimanera Municipalities. Julian Rizo visited El Salvador, Niceto Perez, and Yateras Municipalities. Victor Manuel Gonzalez visited Manuel Tames, Imias, and San Antonio del Sur Municipalities. [passage omitted]

* L. Otero on Special Period, Need for Change

92CA0138A Paris LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE in French No 457, Apr 92 pp 26-27

[Article by Lisandro Otero, vice president of National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC): "What Absolutely Must Change in Cuba"; first paragraph is LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE introduction; title and subtitles by editorial staff; italicized words as published]

[Text] For the first time, a great intellectual who lives and works in Cuba has publicly demanded political changes in his country's regime. He has chosen to do so in the columns of LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE. Lisandro Otero is no dissident: As vice president of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC), he has officially represented Cuba abroad on countless occasions. He expresses the opinion of a growing number of persons who, while condemning the American embargo, think the time has finally come for internal change.

With the proclamation of a "special period," the Cuban regime is facing the most acute crisis in its 33-year history. Food rationing, closures of factories and offices, massive deployments of city people to work in the fields, the rationing of electricity, cuts in urban, interregional, and air transportation, strict control of medicine, and shorter television schedules. The Cuban economy is shrinking, and several sectors are virtually paralyzed.

This gradual deterioration heightens political erosion that manifests itself in reduced productivity, apathy, and irresponsibility on the part of government employees, ever greater discontent among the people, growing dissatisfaction among young people, greater critical awareness on the part of intellectuals, and more and more people fleeing the country.

All of which proves the need to pursue changes in a system that copied the features of orthodox socialism, "real socialism," whose unpopularity and economic ineffectiveness have been demonstrated in the Soviet Union and East Europe. Some observers have pointed out the emergence within the regime of a trend anxious to preserve a type of socialism on its way out. Cuban society would then constitute the last bulwark for the construction of a utopia. However, other forces want something new.

Many Cubans would willingly be the standard-bearers for a new model that has thrown out old patterns and is now anxious to institute a different framework of participation and more flexible administrative machinery. Various sectors of society are starting to reject a socialism that has demonstrated its ineffectiveness, neutralized creativity, and delayed the speed of the evolution of society. Still others reject a model whose Soviet antecedents were characterized by violations of socialist law and almost theological dogmatism.

A rather humorous definition of three key words provides us with a better understanding of the model rejected: bureaucrat: one for whom ev ry solution has a problem; socialism: a system of government in which anything not prohibited is compulsory; and history: under the capitalist system, no one knows what the future will bring; under the socialist system, no one knows what his past will be!

"Do More"

The fact that the October Revolution may have floundered in economic incompetence and absolutism does not necessarily mean that the hope of complete emancipation of the human race has been annihilated. From Spartacus to Winstanley[1], Gracchus Babeuf[2] to Francisco Bilbao, man has never stopped in his quest for redemption.

Nor did the fight against injustice end with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The alleged "death of communism" has not wiped out hope. The market economy does not guarantee success, but after the failure of socialism, is there another viable alternative?

After 1959, the Cuban revolution freed vast reserves of creativity. It was a time for imagination, poetry, liberation. For three decades, the revolution recorded accomplishments of radical importance and irreversibly transformed Cuba.

The regime went through different phases. In the 1960's, all utopias seemed possible: Free rein was given to experimentation, an ideology was cemented in place, and the national identity was affirmed, along with a determination to stand up to attempts at annihilation from the outside. Major economic and social reforms announced the reign of social justice.

It was also a time of great idealism, of slogans such as "One can always do more!" The human spirit seemed capable of bending the laws of nature, and the strength of an idea could link the seas and move mountains. The primordial altruism of the human being would finally prevail over egotism. All moral objectives seemed to be within our grasp.

It was ever a question of the "new man," whose honesty, conscience, honor, and sense of duty would achieve the highest levels. The thirst for gain would disappear along with earthly appetites and individualism. One scorned material incentives in order to spur altruism.

It was proclaimed to excess that new moral values would emerge, forgetting that consciences change slowly. It was laughingly (but not unrealistically) said at the time that "the new man will not be ready in September." Never before or since has the revolution aspired to such patriotic respectability, and the ethical profile of the revolutionary approached that of the early Christians.

The failure of the "harvest of 10 million" tons of sugar cane in 1970, which had cost enormous effort, marks the time when the revolution lost its initial identity. It was then decided to fall back on the Soviet Union's system of management, the only model that appeared to be assimilable.

Accepting conventional socialism, which had resorted to authoritarianism in order to flee the risks of democracy, meant the incorporation of some its deficiencies. The Soviet bureaucracy felt protected by the system of the nomenklatura and preferred to give up its mystique in order to preserve its privileges. It favored the routine of a conservative party in which everything was standardized over the uncertainties of participation by all the people.

A revolutionary party can weaken a society when its cadres consent to be no more than the bearers of messages from above, particularly when it surrenders its obligation to observe real life and derive rules of behavior from it or when it forgets that any ideological position is fragile and that no doctrine has a monopoly over truth.

"Real socialism" tried to regulate individual decisions, family relations, the right to emigrate, express oneself, think, and contribute in an original manner to the nation's development based on one's own criteria. Everyone had to follow an authoritarian collective model. Such paternalism weakened the participation of the very masses that had played a decisive role in the early phases of the revolution and led to a pedestrian utilization of human enthusiasm.

The Cuban regime failed to think through the adoption of some of these distortions. Many think the time has now come to effect a major change in direction.

Pluralism does not necessarily mean a multiparty system. In Cuba before 1959, there were 14 political parties which, with their election "carnivals," destroyed any credibility the system may have had and largely paved the way for revolutionary change. None of these parties helped solve national problems, focusing as they did solely on the struggle for power. The purpose of the multiparty system was personal gain. Elections were adulterated by fraud and corruption. The multiparty system thus lost all prestige. No election ever made it possible to amend or even relieve our many infirmities.

Pluralist Political Space

It has now become obvious that Cuba must become more open politically and exhibit tolerance for a plurality of ideas and visions in order that autonomous forces proposing alternative paths to the perfection of society may emerge. Pluralism implies an expression of movements of thought and ideologies enjoying the right to support their points of view publicly. An important step was taken in that direction when it became possible for believers to be accepted into the party.

Thomas Jefferson believed that individual opinions had to be protected from pressure from authorities. This

principle remains valid for Cuba, where the construction of a new political space is made possible by the disappearance of Soviet socialism even though it is not easy to undertake such a task at a time when the country finds itself in such a dramatic situation. This opening must go hand in hand with a necessary change in the political leadership of the government. No single group of leaders, however virtuous or enlightened they may be, should direct the life of a country for three decades.

Natural wear and tear and physical decline lead to the exhaustion and withering away of the capacity for adaptation required by situations of crisis.

Moreover, one observes an evolution in the ideological content of a regime previously characterized by a strong nationalist coloring superimposed on Marxism-Leninism and internationalism. The cult of the nation's founders, the memory of the martyrs of the past, and Jose Marti's ideas constituted the foundations of Cuban revolutionary doctrine. The collapse of the Soviet Union and of East European regimes reinforces indigenous traditions as well as the patriotic and nationalist credo.

In terms of ideology, there must be more room for dialogue and discussion. If we wish to be free of our current stagnation, it is essential to set up means of communication through which concepts and programs may be exchanged. Measures should naturally be taken to put an end once and for all to "acts of repudiation," those manifestations of censure or verbal lynchings, so to speak, that are probably encouraged by the authorities and designed to frighten and intimidate all those who disagree.

We anxiously await the creation of media that will contribute to the development and diversification of thought. It is increasingly demanded that more heed be paid to those within the regime who support change and even those who, without claiming any orthodox legitimacy, wish to help the country, albeit by criticism. In order to situate Cuba today, one must take the entire world context into consideration. Western analysts now view the disappearance of Marxism-Leninism as a philosophy of government as the liquidation of the last major challenge to liberal democracy.

Nor does this mean the end of the search for utopia. Vast sectors of world opinion would still like to see the emergence of a new humanism based on the rejection of an absurd appetite for consumption and the irrational profligacy of capitalism. If the Cuban revolution should manage to modify its methods and correct its objectives, it would have many more assets within this general context of crisis.

The story is not over, even for industrial nations, much less for underdeveloped countries continually held at bay. Ideologies are not dead, and liberalism has not triumphed once and for all, no matter what Francis Fukuyama may say! Conflict will remain as long as inequalities persist. Western-type democracy in no way guarantees a social balance. Competition between commercial blocs can only provoke confrontation. Cuba stands to benefit from such contradictions.

If the regime makes it through this stage, the so-called "special period," it will have survived its point of maximum weakness and the United States will have lost the best opportunity to overthrow it. It will then have no other alternative but understanding. In Cuba, some hope the economic sanctions will gradually diminish and that the horizon will open up bit by bit.

Optimists think the country can be easily integrated into the Latin American economic context. Pessimists anticipate an apocalyptic overthrow of the government as a result of the people's anger. They go so far as to predict the ravages of a counterrevolution accompanied by fatal excesses of "white terror."

The regime's chances of overcoming the current crisis are mainly linked to the economy, although the political factors are not negligible.

The political leadership places the responsibility for the current situation on the old socialist camp, which put an end to or drastically reduced shipments of goods. It incriminates American economic sanctions equally. Both are definitely important factors, but it is also true that the methods imposed by the Soviet-type socialist model led to asphyxia and atrophy in certain sectors of the economy. Rigid planning discouraged individual initiative, hence an almost exclusive dependency on the former USSR and the countries of old East Europe.

In 1990, Cuba's exports to the USSR amounted to the equivalent of $3 billion worth of goods at world market prices. It will not be easy for countries in the old socialist camp to replace those imports. They in turn export to Cuba industrial goods of mediocre quality for which there are no customers in the West, while Cuban products (nickel, citrus fruits, sugar, tobacco) have a guaranteed world market at prices paid in convertible currencies. Cuba's old trading partners therefore have little interest in any change.

Cuba's problems are largely the result of the planned economy. In addition, officials have often sought to provide political solutions to economic problems, resulting in a succession of failures. Sending inexperienced civil servants and students out into the fields to do farm work does not replace the productivity of the peasant. The latter could make up for the government's deficiencies in the field of agricultural production if a realistic price policy and effective distribution system were set up.

There is a latent fear of contributing to the enrichment of a class of kulaks[3] who might form a social group hostile to the revolution. This is a risk, but one would have but to tax the peasant's earnings to prevent exorbitant profits. Furthermore, by stimulating the production of

small farmers, one would be more likely to obtain sound results than by vast mobilizations of inexperienced city people.

A few years ago, officials authorized free farmers markets, and consumers have never forgotten the abundance of products available at the time. Consequently, at every assembly and even the last party congress, people have consistently spoken out for such free markets, demanding their restoration in order to fight shortages. The government did away with the markets, alleging that the peasants and some traffickers and middlemen were making such huge profits that they posed a danger to the social equilibrium. In addition, government economists claimed the free farmers markets supplied a scant two percent of all national production and that only the wealthier strata of the population could afford such expensive products.

Farmers are a dying breed. The 1980's witnessed a massive exodus to the cities, and the already small farm labor force is growing older. The government has ceased practicing a policy of water conservation and has failed to develop irrigation. Under already difficult circumstances, it is trying to regain ground already lost. The farm population numbers about a million persons (out of a total population of 10 million). Some 19 percent of the land is in the hands of private owners, the majority of it integrated into cooperatives and most of it in sugarcane.

Three-Speed Economy

Solutions are urgently needed to revive the economy, and the mechanisms of private enterprise should be brought in whenever necessary. The trades and crafts should be privatized now that the government has demonstrated its inability to handle the nitty-gritty of maintaining and repairing the thousand and one objects making up daily life!

Marx never postulated that retail trade should be handled by the government. The possible privatization of other types of activities such as restaurants and small businesses should also be looked at. Perhaps some small-scale industry should also be restored to private management.

Cuba now has three different economies. First there is the official economy, which is partly responsible for the shortages. Its operation is so paralyzed that store shelves remain obstinately empty. A second economy operates in limited sectors and is conducted in dollars: tourist zones, stores for foreigners and diplomats, the increasingly active trade at hotels. An intense illegal market and trafficking in foreign exchange have also developed, resulting in a vertiginous drop in the Cuban peso. The third type is an underground economy whose prices vary based on the laws of supply and demand.

Except for traditional products such as sugar, nickel, tobacco, and citrus fruits, Cuba now also sells pharmaceutical products for an amount that in 1990 was comparable to that of the tobacco industry. Tourism is also taking on substantial dimensions, but one cannot minimize the drawbacks: its influence on the black market, which stimulates the illegal economy, and the appearance of tourist oases to which the Cubans themselves, the victims of segregation, have no access, resulting in great discontent. Aside from these negative aspects, tourism could equal the sugar industry as a source of revenue.

The economy has become open to foreign investments with the creation of joint ventures: the state joining with foreign investors expected to contribute capital, technology, and markets. Such operations mainly target sectors paralyzed by a lack of raw materials. Investors enjoy tax exemptions, and the government guarantees them total recovery of their capital after three to five years.

The relentless economic blockade imposed by the United States, along with pressure put on countries wishing to maintain normal trade with the island, must disappear.

Some believe the new economic momentum will lead to social change and might even upset the rhythm of political life.

The economic blockade, harassment by counterrevolutionary forces, outside aggression, and campaigns to run down the system have narrowed the democratic space. The requirements of internal security reduce individual freedoms.

The attitude of the United States therefore affects democratic progress on the island. Its aggressiveness has contributed to national cohesion. Every attack on the revolution: naval maneuvers, the machine-gunning of ships, the sending of counterrevolutionary commandos, has roused renewed support at home that has blurred differences and weakened contradictions. Paradoxically enough, every attack encourages greater political conservatism. In the United States, 1992 is an election year, and it is highly unlikely that George Bush will run the risk of losing the votes of Cubans in Florida and those of the many Republicans who view an aggressive posture on Cuba as a standard of American foreign policy.

Only after the elections will the new administration be able, it is hoped, to demonstrate the same boldness that Kissinger did when he effectively ended the years of alienation and went to Beijing to restore relations with China.

Whatever the case, this is the recommendation of the Santa Fe plan drafted at the beginning of the Bush era: initiating high-level talks with no preconditions in order to normalize trade with Cuba as soon as its military ties to the Soviet Union are broken, which is about to happen. The United States is currently making serious efforts to defuse conflicts in the world, whether in the Near East or El Salvador. One may well wonder why such a pacification effort would not be extended to Cuba. There are very powerful lobbies in the United States that view the island as an excellent potential

market and that could bring pressure to bear to smooth antagonisms. Conditions favorable to a normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States might thus exist after the American elections in November.

The most recent congress of the Communist Party of Cuba supplied a somewhat brief response to problems of major dimensions. More far-reaching reforms were anticipated. The revolution has exhausted the possibilities offered by its structures and systems and now finds itself on the threshold of essential change, an indispensable "revolution within a revolution."

There is an increasing perception, even within the revolutionary camp, of the existence of a social group anxious for change in the hope of preserving the system: sectors of the administration, scientists, technocrats, intellectuals, artists, even part of the nomenklatura. To them one might add the many students who attended uviversity in the former socialist countries and who are now in posts of responsibility. They neither want to move backward nor abolish the revolution, but rather, improve it! Hostile to such an endeavor, some cite the example of Gorbachev, who started by reforming but ended up by liquidating the system!

Decisive Year

It is the government's position that unwaivering support is indispensable in this time of crisis. In the opinion of some, if it did not proceed, as it is now doing, with the military firmness rendered essential by the gravity of the danger, if it should begin to grant concessions or display indulgence, then it would be encouraging counterrevolution. A policy of benevolent flexibility would promote hostile actions that might destabilize the regime.

Others believe that radical change remains possible provided the international situation—read detente with the United States—lends itself to it. This would allow an overhaul of the system.

Those labeled as "splinter groups," the defenders of human rights, have no social base and enjoy little influence in society. They are fringe groups that feed on their own activism and have acquired no real political weight. An opening from the regime would provide them with a long-awaited opportunity to blossom.

The government tends to throw those expressing disagreement or criticism and those adopting an attitude of defiant betrayal into the same sack. Should discontent continue to grow, this could be the wrong tactic. The ranks of dissenters continue to grow at the precise time when dialogue and concerted action could lead to a wiser political path to stability.

If the regime hopes to preserve its accomplishments, it must effect major change, in the absence of which we shall see nothing but the perpetuation of outdated methods at the risk of drastic backward movement.

In 1992, we shall see whether or not the regime can pass such a difficult test. Time is of the essence, and change is urgently needed. It will be a decisive year.

[Box]

Lisandro Otero, novelist and journalist, is one of the most brilliant intellectuals of the post-revolutionary generation in Cuba.

During the struggle against the Batista dictatorship, he participated in the underground resistance. He has held diplomatic posts in Chile, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union.

His principal novels are: The Situation (translated by Jean Lamore, L'Harmattan, Paris, 1988); Temporada de Angeles ("The Season of the Angels"), published in Spain by Bruguera; and Arbol de Vida ("The Tree of Life") (Siglo XXI, Mexico, 1990, which has also just been published in Havana.) His works have been translated into 14 languages.

Footnotes

1. [Gerrard Winstanley, leader and theoretician of the mid-17th century group of English agrarian communists known as the "Diggers." They believed that land should be made available to the very poor.]

2. [Francois-Noel Babeuf, early political agitator in Revolutionary France whose tactical strategies provided a model for left-wing movements of the 19th century. He was called Gracchus for the resemblance of his agrarian reforms to those of the 2nd century Roman stateman of that name.]

3. [Ukrainian land-holding peasants who were wiped out by Stalin in purges during the 1930's.]

Haiti

Tripartite Meeting Rejects Washington Agreement

FL3004155292 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The second tripartite meeting concludes today at the Villa d'Accueil and the results will be known tomorrow, 1 May. According to a duly signed joint declaration, the three parties which include the executive, the parliament, and the Army advise that the decisions will be made in consensus among the parties, that each chamber at the parliament is authorized to enter into the negotiations between the executive and the Army. The Washington agreement which was proposed by the legislative power was rejected yesterday by the participants at the meeting on the basis of the verdict of the Court of Cassation.

The members of the legislative power made another proposal developed from the Washington agreement. The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] said that it would

not make political proposals, but that it was participating in the meeting as the institution responsible for national sovereignty and for other reasons in order to offer its patriotic contributions so a solution can be found to the serious Haitian political crisis. The three parties decided last night to resume the talks today at noon As Senator Dejean Belizaire said: The time of truth is going to ring.

In his introductory speech, during the inauguration of the summit held to find a final solution to the country's crisis, the provisional president, Justice Joseph Nerette repeated what he said in the preliminary meeting that took place at the National Palace, and that is that the solution to the crisis must fall within the lines of the provisions of the Constitution.

Senate President Dejean Belizaire said that the country is experiencing a very difficult situation and pointed out that the meeting must be based on the Washington agreement. The Senate of the Republic took the initiative to propose a tripartite meeting instead of the provisional government's proposal of a national conference.

The meeting began at Villa d'Accueil yesterday shortly after 1500 GMT in the presence of Provisional President Joseph Nerette, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Robert Simonise, Senate President Dejean Belizaire, and Chamber of Deputies President Dr. Alexandre Medard. Also in attendance were other deputies and senators who are members of the bicameral committee, Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton, Senator Serge Joseph, Constantin Mayard-Paul, and Remy Mathieu. The Army was represented by General Raoul Cedras; Jean-Claude Duperval, the Army second in command; Philippe Biambi, chief of the general staff; Colonels Carl Dorelien, Henry Robert Marshall, and Ernst Prudhomme, members of the FADH High Command.

The executive maintained the position it always has had toward the Washington agreement which the Court of Cassation declared ineffective on 27 March.

Meeting Reportedly Deadlocked

FL3004164892 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The tripartite negotiations are at a deadlock. The tripartite meeting between the Army, the executive, and the parliament to find a negotiated solution to the national crisis, which was to continue this morning at 1000 at Villa d'Accueil, has now been complicated. The representatives of the provisional government are requiring from their parliamentary counterparts [as heard] a mandate duly signed by the two chambers as a condition for the continuation of these negotiations. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic have been meeting in camera since 1030 this morning to look into this question.

When questioned during a break, several parliamentarians interpreted this attitude by the executive as a new delay tactic because in their opinion the executive should have asked for this mandate when the negotiations began. For his part, Senator Turneb Delpe said yesterday's atmosphere at Villa d'Accueil was not at all positive. According to this senator, the military assigned to ensure safety at Villa d'Accueil hurled hostile words at the representatives of the parliament. [passage omitted]

Deputies Receive Mandate

FL3004225392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies delegation, led by its president, has, following deliberation, received a mandate from the Chamber regarding its representation in the negotiations being held at Villa d'Accueil. The Villa d'Accueil meeting is being held to find a compromise to the serious Haitian political crisis.

The Chamber reminds the delegation that any decisions issuing from those negotiations must be submitted for ratification to the National Assembly.

El Salvador

FMLN Becomes Official Political Party 1 May

PA3004205492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Communique issued by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command in San Salvador on 30 April]

[Text] When the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the national government signed the agreements to end the war in the nation, we were quite conscious the road was going to be very difficult. Now, two months after the implementation of the agreements, the situation in the nation is a matter of great concern. The deadlines for the commitments are behind schedule, for substantive issues, as well as those of mere form. What is more disturbing, however, is the majority of those delays are the direct result of a deliberate plan carried out by recalcitrant militaristic sectors, whose aims are to prevent all the political, economic, social, and military transformations the nation requires. It is the mandatory duty, however, of all the nation's active sectors to pave the road to peace. To reach this goal, all the actions necessary to guarantee the changes agreed upon—as a result of so much effort and so much bloodshed of the Salvadoran people—must be carried out to lead us to a new nation in peace and democracy. In this regard, the FMLN states to the Salvadoran people and to the rest of the nations of the world the following:

1. In accordance with the peace agreements, as of 1 May, the FMLN will officially become a political party.

2. The National Army for Democracy [END] will continue to be, in accordance with the agreements, an undeniable guarantor for the full compliance of all the agreed changes.

3. The END troops, officers, and combatants will gradually join the FMLN political party, in proportion to the conditions that are generated as the agreements are fulfilled. These conditions should guarantee their full right to participate in the nation's civilian and political life.

We urge the Salvadoran people to join the FMLN political party and to continue in the struggle for peace, democracy, and social justice.

[Signed] FMLN General Command
[Issued] San Salvador, 30 April 1992

FMLN Communique on Agreements, Violations

PA3004175892 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Press Secretariat in San Salvador on 29 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

1. Since we started the process of concentrating our forces at the places established in the negotiations, we have been subjected to continuous acts of harassment, ranging from incursions carried out by ground infantry forces to flight maneuvers in the airspace above our camps.

2. Despite the fact that we have consistently reported said violations to the appropriate organizations, the violations continue.

3. The following violations of the airspace over the camps where our troops are concentrated in Chalatenango Department took place on 28 April: At 0600, a Dragonfly A-37 airplane overflew the Tecomate camp three times at a height of approximately 800 meters.

At 1030, two A-37 airplanes overflew the vicinity between Los Encuentros, (Plachino), and El Trigalito, Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction, from south to north.

At 1100, two Dragonfly A-37 airplanes twice overflew, from south to north, the areas of El Comun and El Trigalito, all the way to the Sumpul River.

Between 1000 and 1230, an unidentified small plane overflew several times the La Reina area.

Between 1000 and 1100, two A-37 airplanes overflew Arcatao and San Jose Las Flores areas.

4. We condemn these maneuvers as they constitute a clear attempt to block the normal implementation of the peace agreements.

5. We also warn that our forces are on constant alert and that specific orders have been issued for them to use the means at hand for their rightful defense.

Issued by the FMLN Press Secretariat in San Salvador on 29 April 1992.

Guatemala

Army Says URNG Responsible for Bank Attack

PA3004231392 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] According to the Army, the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] is responsible for the terrorist attack against the BANVI [National Housing Bank] annex in the fourth zone of Guatemala City on 29 April. The Army's position was stated in a communique issued by the Army's Information and Press Department, asserting that clandestine URNG groups placed the high-powered bomb and carried out this new bloody action to sow panic in the country.

During a news conference, the official Army spokesperson, Frigate Captain Julio Alberto Yon Rivera, was asked if there was an urban guerrilla resurgence in Guatemala. Here are his statements:

[Begin recording] [Yon Rivera] We cannot say there has been a resurgence of guerrilla activities at the urban level. The guerrillas are carrying out terrorist actions against the civilian population. As you know, terrorist actions in urban areas do not require many people or complex logistical support. You could say that the devices used are homemade.

[Unidentified reporter] According to your investigations, what kind of devices are they manufacturing?

[Yon Rivera] What kind of devices or explosives?

[Unidentified reporter] Right.

[Yon Rivera] You do not need dynamite sticks or TNT to manufacture an explosive, which can be made with products bought at the local market. You do need to have the proper training to manufacture and place the devices, which proves that these actions have not been carried out by a common citizen but by people who have the training and the ability to manufacture, program, and place these devices. [end recording]

URNG Calls On Government, Army To Resume Talks

PA0105034892 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Apr 92 p 12

[Excerpt] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) called upon Jorge Serrano Elias' government and the Army to return to the negotiating table without excuses or conditions. This call for action is to ensure that the commitments made one year ago, in the agreements signed by the delegations in Mexico, are complied with in an effective, real, and verifiable manner.

According to the rebels, the dialogue process came to an impasse a year ago because of the government's lack of political commitment to earnestly discuss the topic of human rights and find solutions to this serious problem.

Meanwhile, a communique by CERIGUA (the rebel's news agency) added that the human rights situation continues to deteriorate, because the climate of intimidation, terror, and impunity is growing. The rebels renewed their call to social, political, religious, and Indian sectors, as well as to the masses, to demand that the sides help advance the process of dialogue and negotiation in order to build peace and bring the process to a successful conclusion. They issued this call to the student, cooperative, and business sectors as well.

Manuel Conde, head of the government delegation to the peace talks with the guerrillas, said the government deemed it best for the peace process not to place blame for delays in the process or to criticize for a lack of political commitment. That is not what the people of Guatemala expect as a result of the peace negotiations and is not what they strongly and hopefully await. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Army Troops Surround Protesting Rearmed Men

PA3004130392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Apr 92 pp 1, 12

[Report by Carlos Garcia Castillo]

[Text] Chinandega—The former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officers who on 28 April blocked the highway leading to the border checkpoint at Guasaule will on 29 April begin negotiations with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta. Meanwhile, elite EPS troops, supported by T-55 tanks, maintain a tight ring around the positions of some 800 armed men who are protesting against the government.

One of the Army's advance positions is located at Km 185, on the turnoff to El Sauce on the highway to Honduras. A command post, supported by heavy guns and two T-55 tanks, is located there.

Approximately 1,000 EPS soldiers have taken up positions in the nearby mountains, overlooking the rearmed men, and waiting for instructions, an officer consulted at the site told BARRICADA.

"William," chief of staff of the rearmed men, said they are scheduled to meet with Minister Mendieta. If not, his men, lying in wait in Chinandega, will attack the city. On the afternoon of 28 April, several dozen former contras reinforced the positions of the rearmed men, who demand that the government legalize the occupation of several dozens of farms handed over to retired members of the EPS, the Government Ministry, the Nicaraguan Resistance, and the Workers Ownership Sector, all of them incorporated into the Association of Agricultural Workers.

The rearmed men also demand 300 plots of land on which to build their houses, construction materials, and the release of 25 peasants from the Alsacia farm, whom the authorities pledged to release but have not.

Sandinist Deputy Alonso Porras told BARRICADA that the Sandinist National Liberation Front is mediating in the conflict, which started early on 27 April after several private farms were taken over and the highway leading to the northern border was closed off.

Porras said some agreements on security, including the demarcation of an area occupied by the rearmed men, which EPS troops will not enter, were reached during the preliminary contacts between the rearmed men and government delegate Gustavo Martinez.

The dividing line between the two armed sides is located at Km 165 on the highway leading to the northern border, off Villa 15 de Julio. A brigade of Leon's Black Berets 90 Chinandega policemen, protected by BTR armored personnel carriers are on site.

Seventy women who took over the San Carlos hacienda in Chinandega on 28 April also joined the armed protest.

Maritza Roque and Juan Francisco Carrasco said they have organized themselves to mark land boundaries and work the plots to feed their children, who have been eating bananas stolen from neighboring haciendas.

The crisis in the country's eastern area was worsened by the drop in the cotton crop and the lack of alternate crop policies in the area.

Lacayo: Force Not To Be Used To Restore Order

PA3004134292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Apr 92 pp 1, 12

[Report by Marcio Vargas]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro's government "does not want to restore order at the cost of human lives. If anyone wants to try, go ahead, take the government and start killing people. Be aware, however, that today 20 would die, tomorrow 200, and after that, maybe 1,000."

This statement at least was what Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo said during a news conference set up by Radio Catolica regarding a remark by Monsignor Bismarck Carballo on the occupation of lands and armed protests in the country.

"I know some want the government to restore order by military means. I understand them, because in the past my businesses have been occupied. Sometimes one wishes a divine bolt of lightning would fall and burn the backside of those occupiers," Lacayo said. "But we will not do that. We will not kill people. We will insist on the negotiations and will try to persuade them that they are wrong, that their position harms the country. If we fail to do this, there will indeed be an outbreak," he added.

Journalist Freddy Rostran asked Lacayo about remarks by Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Higher Council of Private Entrerprise, who owns three farms occupied by revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas] in Chinandega, who said that "only a crazy man would invest in Nicaragua" because of the armed protests.

Lacayo replied: "A few days ago, Gurdian told me he was making further investments in his banana plantations. Since he is investing there himself, he must be crazy, supposing he said what you say he said. Rather, Lacayo said in his characteristic didactic style, "Ramiro is doing the right thing as a Nicaraguan by investing in the country. If he made those remarks, it is up to him, because there is no room for lying to the people here."

Another journalist reminded Lacayo that several National Opposition Unity parties said recently that Chamorro's government is on the wrong track, and because of this the country will not take off economically.

Lacayo replied that other sectors think the country "is on the right track" and that, in a meeting held in Washington in March, the international financial organizations and the 15 countries of the so-called Consultative Group that have been aiding Nicaragua coincided in "congratulating" Chamorro's government "over the results of the economic program and the way it was implemented."

Among the financial organizations, Lacayo mentioned the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and IMF, "people who are supposed to know about these things," and said the Consultative Group of 15 member countries includes the United States ("very much admired by some of you"), Canada, Germany, Japan, the Scandinavian countries, Mexico, Venezuela, and others.

"I don't know what Martians would think, but the countries helping us to overcome poverty and the organizations with economic know-how tell us we are on the right track," Lacayo insisted.

"To whom shall I pay more attention then? Oh, come on. The truth is that Nicaragua is a poor country. We have been in pretty bad shape for many years. We are closer to African countries or Haiti than to Costa Rica. We are Central America's black sheep. We are the neighborhood paupers, painful as it is to admit."

"Some friends keep asking me not to say this, because it is self- defeating. I could not care less if it is self-defeating. That is the truth. We will only forge ahead with peace and hard work. We must pull together. There are no magic solutions. We have to work," he said.

'Revueltos' Not Receiving Support From Populace

PA3004190892 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Apr 92 pp 1, 12

[Article by Fidelina Suarez M., Arnoldo Quintanilla, and Roger Suarez]

[Text] Now that the situation in the country's major northern departments has been resolved, the revueltos [mixed group of recompas and recontras] have shifted their activities to the Departments of Chontales, Rivas, and Chinandega, where they have occupied stretches of road, private lands, and public service installations.

Private property is now being adversely affected by these actions, including the occupation of a farm owned by Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), in Chinandega Department.

Gurdian told LA PRENSA on 27 April that on that day alone the losses resulting from the occupation of his property, which measures 1,500 manzanas, add up to $100,000 because he will be unable to harvest some 10,000 boxes of bananas.

"These incidents discourage private investment in the country," said Gurdian, who added that five cows on his farm were killed by revueltos occupying his ranch, "La Candelaria."

Workers and neighbors of the occupied farms are not supporting the revueltos actions and describe them as lazy people.

There were specific plans to occupy the city of Rivas, but a joint operation by the police and the Army prevented it, according to Captain Gregorio Aburto, police chief in Rivas.

The only places in Rivas the revueltos occupied were the offices of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute and Radio Rumbos, where they demanded to speak to a government delegate. Rivas residents decided to conduct their lives as usual without paying any attention or giving any support to the confusion the revueltos created at Telcor and Radio Rumbos, from where they broadcast a message.

In Chontales the mixed bunch occupied several stretches of the road leading to El Rama but pressure from bus drivers and passengers and the lack of support from the population have forced them to open traffic to buses entering the region from Managua.

The latest activities carried out by the so-called revueltos, in addition to the economic damage they have caused in important areas, have not been supported by the adversely affected population. They have only received support from Sandinist National Liberation Front members. Citizens from these areas repudiate the revueltos by going home and shutting their doors to the group's calls.

A large part of the population in Esteli silently protested and paid little attention to the revueltos. Everyone in this city knows these people and identified them saying: "Look at him! He was given a home and $2,000. The other one received some land but sold it off to buy booze," according to Jose Guerra, president of the Nicaraguan Federation of Freight Truck Drivers.

A LA PRENSA correspondent confirmed those reports, saying all those involved with the revueltos once worked for the Government Minister and the Sandinist People's Army and benefited by the conversion plan. Nicaraguan Resistance members like "Rojito" showed their discontent because the name of their organization was being used to promote the disorder.

Guerra was trapped in this city for two days, waiting to travel to the Honduran border.

"Our truck drivers are exposed to danger. One of our drivers almost got his truck burned in Condega. Another driver was threatened to death because they thought he was bringing the riot police but he was actually carrying beans," Guerra said.

Representatives of the revueltos in Juigalpa traveled to Managua on 28 April to meet with Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta Artola. In Rivas, the police are seeking rapprochement and a government commission is bringing requests made by revueltos in Chinandega.

Agreements Reached With Region 5 'Revueltos'

PA3004201292 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The revueltos [mixed bunch of recontras and recompas] in Region 5 have reached preliminary agreements with a government commission led by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta.

The agreement calls for road blocks to be lifted and construction materials to be sent to the area within eight days. The sides agreed to draw up a list identifying properties and those who will receive them.

The dialogue between the revueltos and local authorities will continue in Juigalpa.

The government delegation met on 29 April with revueltos in Region 2, specifically in Chinandega.

Ortega on Measures 'To Overcome Social Tension'

PA3004210592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] On 28 April, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] presented to the government "minimum actions that must be implemented to overcome social tension" affecting several regions of the country.

During a news conference, FSLN Secretary General Commander Daniel Ortega said that in view of the "serious developments" of the past few days, the FSLN National Directorate decided to promote a meeting with the government, which started 1900 on 28 April.

The proposal calls for the government fulfilling all pending commitments and granting provisional and effective land title deeds that will give bank financing access to all those who received benefits prior to and after the elections and to those who actually own land, including those under provisional rental contracts.

To achieve this goal, the FSLN proposes an "extraordinary and expeditious" legalization process, although a regular legalization process will follow, Ortega said.

Other issues include implementing a credit plan that will consider the protesters [demandantes] by relaxing the current concept of land ownership to grant credits. It also calls for a smooth flow of credits to agree with the program and ceiling established by the government.

It also calls for a debt rescheduling plan that will consider the insolvency provoked by the drop in international prices, drought, and other "justified factors."

Moreover, the proposal includes implementing emergency programs to generate jobs and exchanging food for work in Matagalpa, Jinotega, Madriz, and Nueva Segovia, areas affected by the eruption of the Cerro Negro Volcano, and the collapse of the cotton industry.

In addition, the proposal calls for the "urgent" implementation of a public investment plan to create jobs and

provide more assistance resources to the Social Care Fund for the Downtrodden, Emergency Fund for Social Investments, National Reconciliation Program, Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development, and PRODERE [expansion unknown].

Ortega said the FSLN is working on a proposal to "modify the economic plan, which will lead the economy of the country toward stabilization." The document will be completed by the end of May, he explained.

The Sandinist leader expressed that the worsening of the protests in the countryside and cities is generated by economic and social problems "in which noncompliance with many agreements signed by the government are the starting point of these protests."

Ortega added that if the problem in the agriculture sector continues, no economic problem will be solved, even if the adjustments reflect low inflation rates and monetary stability. "They are not enough if the agriculture activity is not developed and promoted."

Shortly before the meeting started on the evening of 28 April at the Presidential House, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo stated that the members of the cabinet would take advantage of this meeting with the Sandinists to "discuss points of view on how we see the situation."

To participate in this meeting, Lacayo had to leave the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Stadium, where he attended the third game of the semifinals between Boer and Leon. He announced the government would ask the FSLN to "contribute to bring stability" to the country in its capacity as a political party.

Lacayo explained that the meeting between government and FSLN representatives was scheduled for the evening of 28 April, at the request of the Sandinists. He disclosed without giving further details that next week the cabinet will meet with "other political parties."

"The more we talk to each other, the more we can understand the solution for the country..., because there is only one Nicaragua," the official concluded.

Area Residents Surrender Total of 1,200 Rifles

PA3004132092 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpt] In only seven days, residents of the La Fuente, Heroes y Martires de Macarali, Rene Polanco, Cuba, (Reparto Shik), and Blanca Segovia neighborhoods, among others, have surrendered over 1,200 war rifles, including 1,000 automatic and 200 semi-automatic rifles, to the 5010th Battalion headquarters

The Finance Ministry is paying 500 cordobas, or its equivalent in food and tin sheets, for every automatic rifle. It is paying 250 cordobas, or its equivalent in food and tin sheets, for the semi-automatic rifles. The Ministry was paying 250 cordobas for the Sandinist People's Army's Makarov guns, but is no longer purchasing them. The going rate for a grenade is 20 cordobas. The ministry is paying 250 cordobas for antitank mines, but has received only one so far. It has received approximately 60 Claymore mines. The Finance Ministry is paying 100,000 cordobas a day for the weapons being turned in. Lieutenant Denis Loaisia Vargas of La Fuente Disarmament Brigade has more information.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is there anyone here to register the weapons?

[Vargas] The 5010th Battalion has been here since Monday, 20 April. We plan to stay here all week [words indistinct] depending on how the surrender of the rifles goes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Government Highlights National Achievements

PA3004170092 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Apr 92 p 11

[Paid government advertisement]

[Text] Reconciliation has been President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's constant message and has been the principal instrument in Nicaragua's pacification, which has been consolidation based on comprehension and patriotism.

1. The Armed Forces has been cut from 90,000 to 20,000 men. The military institution is headed toward the path of professionalism and institutionalization, in addition to guaranteeing the established order and upholding the Constitution.

2. Peace is growing stronger day by day from the goodwill and decision of Nicaragua's sons and daughters, who have decided to exchange the rifle for the plow, and continue to do so through the disarmament program.

3. Trade has been restored, new commercial establishments have opened, and the country has an ample supply of products that are being offered through free competition.

4. The basic staples basket has maintained its cost; products such as rice, beans, sugar, maize, and others are plentiful in produce markets and stores.

5. The parity of the cordoba has been maintained, and the dramatic inflation rate has been brought under control. The economic stabilization program has strengthened our currency and has given our people a positive attitude.

6. Private banks have opened their doors to progress by cooperating in Nicaragua's development. Banking activity is being carried out by stimulating productive areas resulting in investments, more employment, and economic development.

7. For the first time in Nicaragua, unions are able to express themselves openly and there are organized groups with different ideologies advocating their membership's well-being.

8. State powers are independent and their improvement marks a milestone in our national history. The executive branch, the National Assembly, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Supreme Electoral Council operate according to their own judgments and responsibilities and respect each others jurisdiction.

9. International relations with some governments have been strengthened and maintained will all friendly nations. Nicaragua is recognized and acknowledged in international forums and its democratic direction is respected by the international community.

10. The international financial institutions have extended their confidence to the Nicaraguan Government. Our country has received the support of banks and other institutions that generously acknowledge and support our efforts. Once again, we have access to financing.

11. Foreign debt has been refinanced and decreased. Creditor countries have supported our efforts, in some instances, by cutting our debt and accepting longer terms to repay our obligations. We are freeing our children from such a heavy debt.

12. Government authorities respect all political creeds. In the existing pluralistic and democratic regime, Nicaraguans are able to express and practice their political doctrines freely.

13. Compulsory military service no longer exists. Our youth can now attend schools and universities and the government is working to establish training institutions to satisfy the students expectations for the future.

14. Hospitals are being refurbished. We have carried out vaccination campaigns to protect our women and children against dangerous diseases. Epidemics are prevented when people have been taught good health habits. Our campaign to prevent and contain cholera has alerted and protected our citizens.

15. Roads and highways have been opened, which allows Nicaraguans to have smooth internal communications and prompt delivery of their produce to the markets and places of export. Building new roads and improving the existing ones has made access easier and saves time and money, which benefits our economy.

16. We have provided water, which is a vital liquid, to towns that have never enjoyed this benefit previously. The government's development programs are building wells, tanks, and pipelines in different areas of Nicaragua in an effort to bring health and well-being to our people.

17. We have modernized the communication system with new technology and telephone equipment. The number of telephones lines in the country has increased considerably. Regions which were previously isolated—for example, Puerto Cabezas—have been integrated into the national and international community with the opening of new telephone networks.

18. The privatization of state properties is advancing and will prompt the development of new profits.

19. For the first time in our history, workers now have the opportunity to become business managers and receive profits.

20. The concerted effort promoted by our government has been very dynamic. Our domestic problems have been confronted with responsibility. We have established forums and debated the problems until the parties have reached agreements.

21. Freedom is manifested and expressed in the media, universities, and in the will of each Nicaraguan citizen.

22. Democracy allows citizens to dissent or support different social, political, and economic arguments. Ideological pluralism has led us to construct a society where reason and dialogue prevail over violence and war.

23. Municipal autonomy is a fact based on the local participation of citizens. The development of municipalities has prompted participative commitment, which strengthens our communities.

24. Our natural resources are being protected. There are ongoing government programs to improve our ecological system.

25. We have constructed and repaired schools to establish the basic conditions for the development of outstanding educational activity. The goal of the program to restructure our national education is to educate in freedom to allow our children to grow in a democracy.

26. The government ratifies and defends the inviolability of the human rights of all our citizens. Our improvement in this field is so noticeable it has merited international community recognition.

27. The government has been constantly concerned with the construction of housing. Housing programs are to be initiated in response to the Nicaraguan family's urgent need for homes.

28. The belief in our democracy has prompted professionals and specialized workers to return to the country and cooperate in its reconstruction. They have contributed with their manpower, knowledge, and technology, which are essential for our growth and development.

We are doing our share. There is still a great deal to be done. We, however, have made important advancements in the past two years. Shared responsibility is essential to our development. We are all confronted with this challenge.

Argentina

Uruguayan, Argentine Ministers on Peruvian Coup

PY0105025292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0134 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell made public today their agreement "on the necessary and quick reestablishment of democracy in Peru."

This is contained in a communique released by the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The document states that "after this meeting in Buenos Aires, the two ministers stressed the desire that encourages their governments to seek a solution that will quickly end the breakdown of institutional order that occurred on 5 April."

After thoroughly evaluating the topic, the two ministers "agreed that there will be no real solution without the free and sovereign participation of the Peruvian people, and they rejected any type of mechanism that would legitimize the de facto situation."

They also agreed on the urgent need to study the contents of the schedule proposed in Peru, and Argentina reiterated its interest in actively participating in the work of the special OAS commission "created to contribute toward the institutional normalization in Peru." The Uruguayan minister agreed on the usefulness of Argentina's active participation.

Finally, the two ministers agreed on the need to decidedly preserve, promote, and defend American democracy, constitutional legitimacy, and the full implementation of human rights.

* Erman Gonzalez on Military Salary, Assignments

92SM0366A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez announced a pay increase yesterday for the military, beginning in April. He also mentioned the "possibility of sending 15 military observers and 60 gendarmes to Cambodia" as a UN peacekeeping force and stated that Argentina "cannot assume the operating costs of sending a corvette to the Persian Gulf."

With respect to the pay increase for the members of the armed forces and security forces, Gonzalez indicated that "the plan to begin a recovery of pay levels that we consider fair has been completed."

He added that the pay increase "cannot be postponed beyond the month of April." "All political sectors acknowledge this situation has suffered a delay," he said, "but on the other hand, this increase must not be allowed to have an impact on the national treasury beyond the limits of our economic resources and increases in tax revenues."

Contingent To Cambodia

Referring to sending an Argentine contingent to Cambodia, the minister stated that "the possibility exists that 15 military observers and 60 men from the National Gendarmerie may be sent there," adding, however, that it is still only a possibility "because this matter has not been resolved yet by the United Nations, although we were consulted and have confirmed our availability to take part in that contingent."

Regarding the delay in the shipment of the vehicles that are to accompany the Argentine Army Battalion members who will be traveling to the former Yugoslavia as part of a 14,000-man international force of Blue Helmets, the minister of defense said "the UN Security Council has not yet approved the budget for this peacekeeping force of 14,000 men, 865 of which belong to our country."

Once the international organization approves the amount, he said—and "we were told it will be in a few days"—it will give the order to continue with the preparations and, in the case of Argentina, "with the sending of the equipment that is to accompany the military."

Gonzalez said our country has had to "bear the expenses of preparing the material, supplying food for Argentina's contingent, and providing each of our men with the equipment that the United Nations advises they carry to accomplish this mission," but the rest of the transfer (by sea and air) is chargeable to the United Nations.

The minister referred to the government's mid-February announcement regarding the possibility of an Argentine corvette being dispatched to Persian Gulf waters to take part in the economic embargo against Iraq and stated that "We are awaiting ratification of the financing of this operation" because Argentina "cannot directly assume the cost of the operation."

He said that the possibility of sending a corvette to the region "is predicated on the same UN resolutions that are currently in effect and that provided the basis for the presence of the other ships in the Gulf that were sent there by our country." "The United Nations must define who will finance the operation," he said.

Situation Between Coast Guard and Navy

"It is decreed," the minister reiterated, "that the Coast Guard will patrol the 'Argentine Sea' [Argentina's Atlantic coastal waters out to the 200-meter isobath] and its Exclusive Economic Zone out to its 12-nautical-mile limit" and indicated that "we are studying the optimization of the use of the human, material, and financial resources" of both forces. "We are studying the way to harmonize the duties being performed by both the Coast Guard and the Navy outside the 12-nautical-mile limit," he said, adding that "We are trying to avoid interforce conflicts that may occur because of confusion as to legal authorizations and jurisdictions.

"We think we will arrive at a coordinated solution that, without transgressing what the law has prescribed with respect to each of the armed forces, will achieve the other objective of optimizing the utilization of resources," he said.

In reference to the removal and arrest of the Magdalena military prison's director, the minister asserted that the action was taken "because there was a certain relaxation of discipline with respect to security measures. It is not a question of license or total disregard of control measures at the prison, but rather one of isolated acts that we want to prevent from spreading."

2 April

And lastly, referring to the upcoming anniversary of 2 April 1982, the day on which the Argentine forces landed on the Malvinas Islands, he asserted that "the government assigns a special importance to this date, because, though we recognize the inopportuneness and political error of that operation, we believe that it manifested the Argentine people's deeply felt desire to attempt to recover the sovereignty of the archipelago." And he added that "in no way are we renouncing that sovereignty. On the contrary, the government is addressing this issue through diplomatic channels."

Brazil

Petrobras President Confirms Contract With Cuba

PY3004204092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Apr 92 Economic Section p 33

[Text] Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] President Ernesto Weber yesterday told foreign correspondents that he would like to remain in his post. He justified his desire by stating that he is working on a number of projects he would like to conclude. He cited the quality control program that will be adopted in all Petrobras units throughout the country. Weber added that he has not tendered his resignation, but added that he is not the one to decide whether he will remain in his post. He explained that Mines and Energy Minister Pratini de Morais asked him to keep Petrobras operating normally even though he is short three directors.

Ernesto Weber announced that Petrobras, through its subsidiary Braspetro [Petrobras International, Inc.], will sign a petroleum research contract with Cuba. Brazil will be the second nation after France in signing a contract for oil exploration in Cuba. France is operating through Total. Cuba produces between 15,000 and 18,000 barrels of petroleum daily. Weber added that the Argentine Government Oil Deposits (YPF) has invited Petrobras to participate in a bid that will involve the exploration of oil in the northwestern basin. Petrobras is already operating in Argentina, carrying out seismic work.

On 4 May, Ernesto Weber will receive in Houston, Texas, an award on behalf of Petrobras from the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) [previous name given in English]. This award, considered the Oscar of the petroleum industry, is granted to companies that attain outstanding technological development.

Moreira To Be New Chief

PY3004205892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Apr 92 Economy and Business Section p 1

[By Marta Salomon]

[Text] Brasilia—A source that has access to Planalto Palace has reported that Benedito Moreira, the new president of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], will be installed on 4 May.

Moreira has accepted President Fernando Collor's invitation to take over the most coveted post in the second level of government, after being fingered by [Mines and Energy] Minister [Marcus] Pratini de Moraes, who is a friend of his. Having confirmed Ernesto Weber's replacement in Petrobras, the government is preparing to replace the head of Radiobras [Brazilian Radio Broadcasting Company], which will also be transferred from the Justice Ministry to some other organization in the administration, and along with it the enterprises linked to Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.].

The main reason for choosing Moreira is because of his well-known international experience: He was president of the Department of Foreign Trade (Cacex) of the Bank of Brazil during the administrations of [Ernesto] Geisel and [Joao Baptista] Figueredo, an area in which he continued to be active even after leaving the government.

The firing of Weber was a certainty more than two weeks ago and coincided with charges that the enterprise was involved in the so-called PP Scheme [corruption charges linked to Petrobras and its labor union] of former Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos. The government even thought of transferring Procopio Lima Neto, president of the National Steel Company, to Petrobras, but did not in the end. It was then that Moreira was invited to take over the post.

Radiobras is the next company after Petrobras to have its management replaced.

Economy Minister Comments on IMF Targets

PY0105032992 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Apr 92 Section 1 p 6

[Report by Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva in Washington]

[Text] Arguing that the failure to fulfill some of the targets included in Brazil's letter of intent to the IMF will be acceptable to the IMF, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira yesterday said in Washington: "The economic program's substance is more important than a small difference here or there."

The economy minister made this remark after meeting with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady during the IMF's semestral meeting in Washington. Marques reported to both of them on the Brazilian economy's performance and on the debt negotiations with commercial banks.

The minister stressed that the banks have already reached a 35 percent discount rate on the [Brazilian foreign] debt (previously they offered 32.5 percent and Brazil is asking for 37.5 percent). He admitted that this will approximately be the rate included in the agreement provided that an agreement is reached on the amount of money that Brazil must reserve as a guarantee for interest payments.

Yesterday, the Brazilian negotiators received information that many banks do not have a special preference for a par-value bond [bonus ao par], one of the instruments of the menu of proposals to reschedule the debt. The par-value bond requires more guarantees and it was believed that it would be the banks' favorite.

Marques said he explained to Camdessus and Brady that for the second quarter there are signs already of a solution to the collection problems that the government experienced during the first quarter. April's collection exceeded March's collection by 10 percent and large number of Finsocial [Social Investment Fund] taxpayers who were in arrears by March must resume their payments by May.

Speaking to the IMF ad-interim committee, Marques asked the industrialized countries to help the developing countries to gain access to the advantages of the economic reforms that they have implemented. "The magnitude of the short-term social costs of those adjustments cannot be underestimated," he said.

Chile

Pinochet Discusses Police Intelligence Activity

PY0105034692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by Fernando Lepe]

[Text] Army Commander in Chief General Augusto Pinochet at noon today stressed that the investigative police do not have constitutional powers to conduct intelligence tasks.

In addition, Gen Pinochet described as serious the investigative police goal of surveilling military barracks and following Armed Forces personnel, adhering to the Halcon-1 and Halcon-2 plans.

The Army commander in chief made these remarks in response to a question on whether he believes that the national security can be affected by this type of action. Pinochet added that he only knows of two countries that have not complied with these provisions: Russia and Germany, which, through the KGB and the Gestapo, respectively, investigated their armies.

The Army commander in chief briefly talked to the journalists after he presided over a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the Army Administrative Support Command, a ceremony that was held at the Army NCO Country Club.

Defense Minister on Political Espionage Case

PY2904131892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas pointed out that he does not believe it is necessary to send the [political] espionage case to the National Security Council. He stated that he does not see any reasons for such an important entity as the National Security Council to handle the problem of memoranda whose administrative effects were abolished, memoranda that did not involve the monitoring of any armed institution.

[Begin Rojas recording] Being at such an important level as the Chamber of Deputies, with its monitoring ability, I do not believe it is necessary to have the same issue handled simultaneously or in a similar manner at a different level. [end recording]

Asked about the seriousness of the drafting of the Halcon-1 and Halcon-2 plans, Minister Rojas recalled the state's right to cover information it receives as part of its role to safeguard the institutional system, democratic stability, and the sound operation of the institutions.

In conclusion, the minister pointed out that it is necessary to quietly and calmly await a report by the investigative committee and the decision that the Chamber of Deputies will subsequently make.

The defense minister made these remarks after bidding farewell to a Navy crew that will travel to Cambodia soon.

Colombia

Gaviria Comments on Energy Rationing, Strikes

PA3004195492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Speech to the nation by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo at Narino House in Santa Fe de Bogota on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] Colombians: This evening I want to address the topic of electricity rationing. I also want to refer to the labor and public order situation. I will begin by stating that few problems have affected our entire population as much as electricity rationing. Colombians have faced this situation with patience, goodwill, and with a great deal of creativity and strength. That patience has its

limits, however, and Colombians now want to know the origins of this situation. We have endeavored to analyze its causes in the past few weeks and I believe I can provide a satisfactory report on the contributing factors to this grave problem.

Undoubtedly, the main problem is the summer season. The country has kept records of the rainfall in its river basins for the past 40 years and this is the hottest summer recorded. Records have been kept in Valle del Cauca Department from the beginning of this century and according to those records, this is the hottest summer so far in the 20th century.

This situation was triggered by El Nino, which has not allowed clouds to enter the national territory from Ecuador. This phenomenon explains—although it may sound like an excuse—the difficulties and discomforts all Colombians are experiencing. This problem alone, however, does not explain the whole picture. I have met with the authorities, various national leaders, and all the sectors of society to search for the causes of this problem. Now, I am prepared to offer a brief report of what has truly happened.

One of the first causes appears to be the so-called Cali Agreement—labeled as the electric Yalta by a magazine—in which it was determined several years ago to divide the sector's projects. Up until that time, all companies were investing in each of the projects, however, it was then decided to distribute the sector's energy projects. Some of these projects were given to companies that did not have the expertise, administrative capability, or financial capacity to implement them. One of these is the Guavio Project—the largest ever in the nation's history—which the Bogota Energy Enterprise was not prepared to handle. This project had to be constructed in a very difficult geological area—the eastern mountain range. In addition to this, over the years, many wrong decisions were made on the purchase of lands and the slow nature of this process delayed the project on several occasions. Also, wrong decisions were made regarding the financial arrangements reached with the contracting companies, therefore, the Guavio Project was postponed on several occasions. Unquestionably, if the Guavio Project was operating, Colombians would not now be experiencing energy rationing.

The second cause is the currency devaluation between 1983 and 1984, which was much higher than in the past and coincided with the revaluation of other currencies. This situation deteriorated, in a very significant manner, the finances of the energy sector as the state-run companies did not have the same access to special financial conditions as the private sector.

The third cause is the decision to postpone some projects. One of these decisions—that in the case of the Guavio Project was due to geological problems and incorrect administrative decisions—was to postpone the implementation of the Guavio Project from 1991 to 1992. That decision made several years ago is one of the causes of energy rationing. The Rio Grande Project's delay is largely due to decisions by the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute made under pressure by certain local industries, as well as the legal suits filed by certain local industries. This situation considerably delayed a project that should already be operating. This project alone would have substantially reduced—practically by 50 percent—current energy rationing.

The myth of overrationing has also contributed to this problem. Around 1986, this situation was discussed and all the energy sectors adopted this idea. The myth we were overrationing prompted the authorities to lower their guard regarding those responsible for developing new energy projects. This, with the sector's very difficult financial situation, contributed to the inability to face the current drought situation. The current problem is also due to the lack of maintenance of thermic parks. One example is the suspended maintenance of the Corelca Company thermic park for several years. It was not until 1989 this maintenance process was resumed. This resumed maintenance was insufficient as the system had considerably deteriorated, therefore, it was not prepared for the current situation.

Another factor that has been blamed for rationing is called the cost of rationing in electrical terms. This has been discussed since 1984, but a decision was not made until December 1991. During all those years, the managers of the energy companies discussed the issue without adopting a decision. Analysts differ on the consequences of delaying this decision.

The people at Interconexion Electrica, Incorporated believe that only 100 gigawatts would have been saved if an earlier decision had been made. This is a relatively small amount compared to the rationing we have sustained. Other former ministers and authorities consider the savings could have been perhaps greater.

The other important reason has to do with the model with which the energy sector operates. This model was prepared by prestigious international firms and well-known national technicians. It was finally adopted in 1986. This model demonstrated its great limitations, when in December 1991 the level at the dams was 54 percent of proper levels, which was a record low. At that time, the model did not give warning signs. Energy companies were still asked to spill water, as there were no signs of a drop in the level. This is undoubtedly one of the main causes for not adopting some timely measures.

It would have been perhaps desirable that humans and not a model made decisions. These problems and limitations shown by the model must be corrected so these difficulties can be avoided in the future.

Another problem is the rate structure. We all know the low-income sectors do not have the capacity to pay energy rates at their real value. It has been worrying to see many industrial and commercial enterprises pay energy rates at higher than real costs. They are beginning to generate their own energy and abandon the system.

Eventually, users who do not have the capacity to pay will stay within the energy system, while those who have a capacity to pay will leave.

Among these elements, we must also include the terrorism problem. All Colombians, or many Colombians, lowered their guard and thought that the blowing up of power towers—which were so frequent in 1991 and continued in 1992 with less frequency—would have no consequences. They damaged transmission systems, weakened companies financially, and were an important factor in the deterioration of the electric system in 1991 and so far in 1992.

I already mentioned in a previous address the problem of Termotasajero and how the transmission of energy from that thermoelectric plant to the center of the country was suspended for so many weeks.

The energy sector's problems are also influenced by bureaucracy and excessive administrative expenditures, a situation that had become habitual. Corrections were applied, but they proved insufficient. The sector must be made stronger, more capable, better organized, and more efficient to tackle the country's electrical energy problems.

At this stage, a large majority of Colombians are probably wondering what is going to happen with electricity rationing. I must answer that for 1992, it is a problem that depends primarily on the rain patterns. If the May rain patterns follow historical trends and allow the reservoirs to fill up with sufficient water, it is possible that in June electricity rationing will be significantly reduced. It is also possible that rationing might even be suspended. At this time, however, there is not much we can do except to trust in God's help, in nature, and wait for rain to end energy rationing.

It is not the same for 1993. I will proceed to explain what we are currently doing to face this challenge. Recently, you may have heard that due to the economic emergency regime, we have been implementing certain measures to make it easier to execute some projects.

The first of these projects is related to accelerating the completion of the Guavio Project. We have recently received sufficient guarantees from the manager of the Bogota Energy Company that by the end of 1992, a 2,000 kw unit will be in operation. In addition, he also indicated it is quite possible that during the first half of 1993, two more additional units will be installed. These steps will allow us to connect with Venezuela, which will add 150,000 kw to the system. We are currently working so an additional 150,000 kw will be available during the next 40 days and 100,000 kw by the end of the year.

This administration is also working on new thermic projects. Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] plans to install a 50,000 kw plant in either Huila or Tolima to solve the serious electrical shortages the city of Ibague has been having for a long time. In addition, we are obtaining several power generating barges to allow us to generate at least 90,000 kw for emergencies. Ecopetrol is presently working on the use of Castilla crude oil [crudos de Castilla] to set up a thermoelectrical plant, and we hope to have it operating very soon.

The Electric Corporation of the Atlantic is preparing to receive public bids from the private sector related to a long-term contract to buy 120,000 kw of electrical energy. We expect the Mamonal Project, a 90,000 kw project currently being prepared by the private sector, will be implemented during 1992.

In addition, we are also working to strengthen the patrimonies of state-owned companies. The mechanisms to be used in strengthening state-owned companies have been clearly established in the economic emergency decrees. The only way we can aptly start the new hydroelectric projects, the new thermic projects, and ensure state-owned companies increase their financing capability, and contract new debt from the multilateral banking community and other financial institutions is by strengthening their patrimony, as we are currently doing.

We have also been able to progress in extending the reach of the gas program to serve more consumers. This is a very important point. Ecopetrol is currently making decisions related to connecting all gas production centers in Colombia, such as Bayenas in Guajira, Cusiana in Casanare, and Huila department. In other words, the whole pipeline network is about to be joined, which will allow us to distribute several million cubic feet of gas. During the next few weeks, Ecopetrol will start to accept public bids for the gas system extension program in Antioquia department, northern Huila, Tolima, and southern Huila. At a later stage, and after we have constructed additional gas facilities in Malaga, located in the Valle del Cauca department, it will then be feasible to accept public bids during 1993 for the gas projects to be implemented in Caldas, Quindio, Risaralda, and Valle del Cauca Departments.

This will allow us to change the composition of our sources of energy, have more thermal energy, have more gas for household use, and not depend on hydroelectric energy, which makes the whole system vulnerable during droughts. We also had to make difficult decisions in December to get international prices for propane gas, which the country has to import. Ecopetrol is building installations at its ports and cities that will not have access to natural gas right now, but will have access to propane gas, which is much more efficient for household consumption than electric energy.

You might ask: After these decisions, what will happen with rationing in 1993, if there is any? I believe that, regarding this matter, we have even better news. Even if the rate of rain in 1992 is as bad as 1991, I believe there is no possibility of returning to the current situation. If the amount of rain is normal in 1993, there will be no rationing. If, in 1993, there is little rain, rationing will be much less than in 1992. We have started taking all the steps to attain this goal.

What else will we do? We are working on the expansion plan. An expansion plan must take all these elements into account, prevent the country from committing the same mistakes, and promote a much more balanced development plan for our energy in the coming years. To achieve that, we will be paying attention to recommendations by the Private Sector's Advisory Commission [Comision Asesora del Sector Privado] that I appointed recently and by the congressional commissions that are conducting an important supervisory task, which is essential to our democracy and will certainly result in constructive recommendations so that this expansion plan truly reflects the needs of the country.

The country is anxious to learn what happened, to know who is responsible, and to see that those responsible receive fast and proper sanctions in accordance with their responsibility. The country is also looking for quick solutions to guarantee this situation does not happen again.

For the weeks and months still remaining in 1992, we depend very much on the rain and we are also beginning to depend on our actions to produce results, thus, enabling us to recover a good part of the country's thermal energy.

I have made a brief evaluation of the energy sector and the problem of electricity rationing.

Now I will make some comments on the problems in the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise [Telecom]. The labor problems have, fortunately, been overcome. They have not, however, been totally overcome in aspects related to services, because obviously there have been acts of sabotage: hard disks were erased; important conduction cables were sabotaged with sand and flour; and cooling systems were made inoperable. It will take some time before the system can be fully recovered.

In regard to our commitments toward the workers, we have committed to make a new effort to reach agreements and possibly to modify the bill the government has introduced to Congress. If those agreements are not possible, the government has agreed to voice the point of view of the workers so they may be examined by the commission....[pauses] by the various congressional commissions and by the plenum, so Congress may be responsible for adopting those decisions that will be most suitable for the national interest.

I would like to repeat that the government is not inflexible, that it never has been inflexible, and that it will never be inflexible. We will do everything within our power so that—regardless of what decision is made—the rights of the workers are respected. I would also like to say we are working to restore services as soon as possible. I, of course, hope this situation may be overcome soon, and that Colombians never again have to experience the isolation of the last few days.

Simultaneous with the Telecom situation, a situation of labor unrest has been created, a strike situation threatens. In particular, there are some difficulties in the Colombian Ports Enterprise. The guerrillas have wanted to contribute to this climate in their efforts to destabilize the country and to affect our democracy. The guerrillas have been intimidating the peasants so they can conduct a new general strike in the northwestern section of Colombia. There are already clear signs that roads are being blocked, efforts are being made to stop transportation of food, and merchants are being threatened. They do not want to let anyone go by and....[pauses] Possibly we will see that a situation as serious as the one in 1988 will repeat itself, a situation in which a great many peasants, a great many members of the public forces, and a colonel of a battalion in Santander Department, all lost their lives. This is why I want to warn Colombians so they do not let themselves be intimidated by the guerrillas, so they do not let themselves be lead into these situations that can endanger their lives and severely affect our democracy. In the present case, the Armed Forces are aware of the instigators' intentions and they know they have to act energetically and cautiously.

Under these circumstances I am asking Colombians to support our authorities and Armed Forces to overcome this situation. In a few days, we will celebrate May Day and I am sure the workers will celebrate the defense of our democratic principles. The country needs a system of unions, a strong union organization, and a union organization that will respect the principles of our democracy and defend our institutions. That is what Colombians want. Colombians want peaceful solutions. Colombians want the democratic controversy to be free of any intimidation. That is what this government has intended to achieve. That is an objective that is shared by all of the nation's political and social forces.

Therefore, I invite you to embrace solidarity, to work to overcome our difficulties, to move forward in the task of constructing a stronger democracy, and to advance in the task of looking for solutions that meet the country's aspirations and needs. We must also put aside the desire for destabilization and the guerrillas' decision to persist in their terrorist acts and not listening to the call—not of the government, but of the entire Colombian community—to overcome that span of violence that is hurting our nation so much. Good night and thank you very much.

AD/M-19 Leader Says Opposition Role Resumed

PA3004202192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] After successive electoral setbacks, the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] resumed its opposition role on 29 April. Although it is not removing its representative from the government, AD/M-19 leader Antonio Navarro, congressmen, and other leaders notified President Cesar Gaviria that the AD/M-19 is still active.

Opposition by the AD/M-19, which has been very slight in Congress, will move to the streets, universities, and labor unions, according to Navarro.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Why has the AD/M-19 been so slow in resuming its opposition role?

[Navarro] That is your opinion. It has not been slow. We have been expressing our viewpoints clearly and frankly. [end recording]

Health Minister Camilo Gonzalez, who represents the AD/M-19 in the government, will continue in his post as long as the president wants him there. Meanwhile, tax reform and privatization, the focal points of Gaviria's economic policy, will be rejected by the revived opposition, led by Navarro.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Does the AD/M-19 find the government's handling of the peace process acceptable?

[Navarro] The peace process is [words indistinct] an alternative. We think it is not a problem of agenda but of the design of the process. In addition to demanding resolve from both sides, the Colombian people's desire for peace must be imposed on those involved in the negotiations. [end recording]

Peru

Fujimori's Labor Day Address to Nation 1 May

PA0105044792 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0322 GMT 1 May 92

[Speech by President Alberto Fujimori on the occasion of Labor Day in Lima—live]

[Text] Good evening, fellow workers. As president of the Republic, who shares with you—the majority of the country—the historical task of national reconstruction, I feel I am just another worker. Tomorrow is Labor Day. Millions of our fellow countrymen throughout the fatherland will commemorate tomorrow, the date on which the most dignified activity of human beings is celebrated throughout the world. Thanks to work, the world and our country progress.

My government can accurately say that work is its motto. In 20 months, we have devoted ourselves—together with the people—to the task of reconstructing the country and establishing the foundations for future development. We have barely taken a break in this task. We are working for a better country, for a country in which we will have the conditions necessary for the full development of human beings. We work so that Peru will be a vanguard country in the world, and not a nation falling behind.

In today's world, great changes are taking place that we Peruvians must understand so that we can attain a future of progress. Today, workers are not seeking a struggle or a confrontation of classes, but they want to become effective agents of the prosperity of nations. That is what we see in Eastern Europe, in Russia, and in many other parts of the world. In order for this to happen, it is necessary that the labor union leaders change their mentality. It is also necessary that structural changes take place that will allow us to surpass bureaucracy, inefficiency, unproductivity, and corruption. This will allow the modernization of the state and its basic institutions.

Efficiency and higher production levels are being sought today throughout the world because it will enable a just distribution of wealth. Distributing poverty does not lead to anything.

The Peruvian workers know that, in these 20 months, we have made and continue to make every effort to ensure that Peru will not leave the path of development and modernization that it entered on 20 July 1990. Our will in this direction is so steadfast that we have been obliged since last 5 April to issue exceptional and transitory measures to ensure that the national reconstruction project, which we began when we took power, will not stop.

The future of Peruvian workers and their families depends on the capabilities of all Peruvians—basically the workers—to participate in building a solid economy and peaceful society. This participation is marked by sacrifice and austerity because the people know that, only in this way, can we achieve such objectives and thereby secure a dignified future for our children.

Two of the worst enemies of Peru—terrorism and its ally, narcotrafficking—must be confronted with determination and courage, as they have been up to now. They seek to undermine our economy and bring us more violence and death. This government will not allow that to happen. It is working, therefore, with independence and intelligence, so that democracy will be an instrument of liberty and also of development, and so it will never be diminished. Democracy is diminished only when it is not fulfilled.

The institutions and the laws must be at the service of man, of citizens, because they are not an end, per se, but a means to achieve the total realization of human beings. If it is necessary to change them, to correct them, to amend and improve them, so that they serve the society that gives them life, nobody who is a true democrat can oppose this.

Fellow workers, we are in the same trench, committed to work permanently, as is required for the construction of our country. We build Peru everyday with our sacrifice and our will to progress. That is why, tomorrow, on Labor Day, let us hope that we will always remain united around this great cause. Thank you very much, and good evening.

Fujimori Announces Life Sentence for Terrorists

PA3004215792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by Maritza Lopez]

[Text] During a ceremony to commemorate Artillery Day in Chorrillos, President Alberto Fujimori said that in a few hours the national emergency and reconstruction government will sign a decree whereby convicted terrorists will be sentenced to life imprisonment. This is Fujimori giving a brief speech:

[Begin recording] We are waging a terrible war against drug trafficking, the economic crisis, corruption, and terrorism. Peru must wage this war tirelessly and unceasingly. Soon, terrorists will be dealt with, not only through the coordinated effort of the people and the Armed Forces, but through new legislation. According to this decree, the criminals attacking innocent people and undermining the country's infrastructure will be imprisoned. But they will not serve only two or three years, as was the case until a short time ago. We must be strict. With this in mind, we are reorganizing the judicial power so it can act severely and speedily against these criminals. Today I will enact a decree whereby for the first time in the country, a life sentence will be passed on those found responsible for this crime. [Applause]

You, Armed Forces members in general and artillery men in particular, know that I am determined to get Peru back on its feet. This objective, however, requires determination. The people elected me as president and I am determined to govern the country. [end recording]

The ceremony at Chorrillos was attended by the interior and defense ministers.

More on Announcement

PA0105034392 Lima Gobal de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori will enact a decree on 30 April ordering life sentences for terrorists. The president made the announcement at the Chorrillos Military Academy on the occasion of Artillery Day. He said that Peru, as a member of the pact signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, cannot institute capital punishment but could look into the possibility of holding a consultation for people to decide on the matter.

During the 126th anniversary of the Army's artillery force, the top military officers, sharing a seat of honor with the president, reiterated their support for the government so as to guarantee a better country in the 21st century. Speaking to the Army staff, Fujimori was able to convey the feelings of the Army when he said it was necessary to join the efforts of the people and the Army because we began a new stage in the country's life on 5 April.

As for the war being waged against terrorism, the economic crisis, and drug trafficking, Fujimori said fear will now be fought with new laws. He announced life sentences for terrorists by means of a decree he will enact on 30 April.

[Begin Fujimori recording] We must be drastic. We are reorganizing the judicial branch. I repeat, we must deal harshly and swiftly against these criminals. Today I am going to enact a decree establishing, for the first time in my country, a life sentence for those who commit these types of crimes. [end recording]

After the event at the military academy was over, Fujimori said the judicial branch will no longer be lenient with the terrorists. He announced the possibility of having people decide whether they want capital punishment or not.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] We want the judicial branch to stop being lenient with convicted terrorists. That is why the judicial branch will now take more drastic and swift actions. We are also enacting a series of ordinances that will enable terrorists to be sentenced with greater severity. We are enacting a life sentence, a sentence of over 30 years.

[Reporter] This has been one of the announcements people have been expecting in the fight against terrorism. How will it be applied? Also, why sentence for life sentence and not capital punishment, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] That is a good question. Peru has signed the San Jose Treaty on this matter and, as such, it cannot unilaterally establish a death penalty. We would have to stop implementing the treaty, but before doing so I would prefer to hold a consultation with the people so that we can take the appropriate action.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Fujimori] This is a matter on which the people may be consulted.

[Reporter] What type of crime would get the life sentence?
[Fujimori] Acts of terrorism.

[Reporter] Which crimes?
[Fujimori] The life sentence would be given to terrorist leaders and those who are responsible for crimes. It would be given to those who make up the so-called death squads.

[Reporter] As for the dialogue between the government and the people in what may be termed as plebiscites or consultations, one of them could be the call you have made for tomorrow. How will this dialogue be held? Do you expect it to be successful?
[Fujimori] As for that, I can tell you that the president of the Council of Ministers is in charge of coordinating everything. This is going to be successful of course. It will produce specific results that will lead us to a new constitutionality and to an authentic democracy.

[Reporter] Will the life sentence be established for drug traffickers as well?
[Fujimori] We are only including terrorists at this time. [end recording]

Justice Officials Discuss Reforms With Fujimori

PA0105033892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0109 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori today received Luis Eduardo Serpa Segura, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, and the new higher prosecutors, with whom he discussed the administration of justice and methods to improve it. Serpa confirmed the autonomy of the judicial powers, but he made no further comments on other issues. Minister of Justice Fernando Vega announced the decentralization of the judicial system and improvements in the administration of justice. The 18 Supreme Court prosecutors elected Dr. Serpa as their president on 28 April, in response to a message from the president through his aide-de-camp. Minister of Justice Vega also participated in the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Serpa, international sources are afraid that judicial power in Peru is subordinated to the executive branch. What do you say?

[Serpa] Not at all. Judicial power is autonomous. We receive orders from no one.

[Reporter] This is the first time that a state power ....

[Serpa, interrupting] I am returning his greeting.

[Reporter] But this is the first time, right? Will autonomy be maintained?

[Serpa] I guarantee that autonomy will be maintained. [end recording]

Questioned on the subject, Minister of Justice Vega said the administration of justice will be improved and decentralized through the establishment of judgeships in popular sectors, and also through speedy action and increased morality.

[Begin Vega recording] Justice should be administered in the most popular sectors so it will not be concentrated at the Palace of Justice. Justice should begin to be decentralized. There will be judgeships, and even courts, in popular sectors, which is a very important step. [end recording]

Finally, President Fujimori said that 500 individuals who have served time in excess of their sentences will be released in a few weeks.

[Begin Fujimori recording] In a few weeks and through public hearings we hope to release a considerable number of men who are currently serving time. We estimate this number to be 500. These men have served time in excess of their sentences. The process is expected to be continued in several stages. [end recording]

San Roman To Be Charged With Usurping Power

PA3004193192 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] General Prosecutor Hilda Cordova will file suit through the Attorney General's Office against opposition leader and proclaimed constitutional president Maximo San Roman for usurpation of power, according to ANDINA, the official news agency. Cordova said that she will go before the First Penal judge on duty to file charges against Maximo San Roman. It appears that San Roman has issued documents with the presidential seal on the letter head, calling for a national dialogue. The usurpation of power in public office is punishable by four to seven years in prison, according to a recent government modification of the penal code. As a result, persons accused of committing this crime are being arrested.

San Roman Calls For All Groups at Dialogue

PA3004165992 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] A dialogue for democracy and national development convened by Maximo San Roman will take place at 0900 [1400 GMT] on 30 April at the Santa Elisa Credit Union building, according to reports.

San Roman stated that representatives of political parties and other organizations will participate.

[Begin recording] [San Roman] I want to call on all organized groups of our country, mothers associations, the glass of milk association, workers, labor union representatives, and business representatives to attend the meeting at the offices of the Santa Elisa Credit Union. We have already managed to overcome the impasse. At that meeting, we will have the opportunity to discuss and analyze the proposal I made to our country on 29 April to overcome this situation through democratic and constitutional measures.

[Unidentified reporter] Engineer San Roman, what institutions have voiced their intention to participate in this dialogue?

[San Roman] I could not specify how many, but you can rest assured that most institutions have made statements condemning the civilian coup or self-inflicted coup. They will be present at the national dialogue meeting.

[Reporter] What kind of institutions [words indistinct]?

[San Roman] Organized groups, unions, academic associations, business organizations....

[Reporter, interrupting] Will business groups participate as well?

[San Roman] Business groups have also voiced their intent to participate in the dialogue.

[Reporter] Can you give the names [words indistinct]?

[San Roman] You will know who they are by being there with us on 30 April.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Lima Bar Association?

[San Roman] Professional associations will be the first to join us. [end recording]

Military Spokesman on U.S. Plane Incident

PA3004190992 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Colonel Carlos Portillo Vasquez, chief of El Pato Air Base, has said that the Peruvian pilots who intercepted a U.S. aircraft on 24 April acted in accordance with the law and international air navigation regulations.

Portillo Vasquez stated that in this and other cases, Peruvian Air Force personnel are always very careful, responding to strict professional training. Therefore, it cannot be said that they made a mistake or acted irresponsibly. [passage omitted]

Government Appoints Delegates to OAS Meeting

PA3004201392 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The government has appointed the Peruvian representatives to the special OAS meeting to be held on 1 May in Washington. The representatives are Ambassadors Ricardo Luna Mendoza and Alejandro Leon Pasos. The Foreign Ministry announced these appointments through a press release. The current political situation in Peru is to be analyzed at the OAS meeting, among other issues.

Murders, Kidnappings Reported Countrywide

PY3004135292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Summary] Several Peruvian sources reported on 28 April that four people were killed, one seriously wounded, and eight kidnapped during the last few days in the country.

The sources reported a police NCO was shot to death in Lima on 27 April on his way to work in Rimac District; the body of Fernando Ponce—president of the Pasco Peasant Communities Federation—who had been missing for a week, was found in the town of Cerro de Pasco; student Requis Espinosa was killed in the same town on 27 April; the body of teacher Orlando Tovar, who had been missing for three days, was found on 27 April in the village of Huayucachi, 9 km from Huancayo; and an individual was injured during an attack allegedly made by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement against a Continental Bank office in Lima on 28 April.

The daily LA REPUBLICA reported on 28 April that 40 individuals wearing military uniforms kidnapped eight members of a peasant community, including a former mayor of the center-right Popular Action Party, at the Santa Marta shantytown in Lima on 27 April.

Decree Cites Elections of Regional Authorities

PY3004133892 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 20 Apr 92 Legal Supplement, pp 106370, 106371

[Supreme Decree No. 045-92-PCM issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 16 April]

[Text] Supreme Decree No. 045-92-PCM

The President of the Republic
Taking into account that:

Until the procedure mentioned in Article No. 3 of Decree Law No. 25432 for the election of new representatives of regional governments before each government body is established, elections for presidents of the regional assemblies throughout the country must be called. These presidents will be elected through a direct, universal, and secret vote;

Following the attributions granted him in Clause No. 5 of Article No. 211 of the Constitution:

Hereby decrees:

Article 1. To call elections for presidents of regional assemblies of the regional governments throughout the country. These elections will take place on 8 November, together with the elections for regional and provincial mayors and councilmen called for through Supreme Decree No. 044-92-PCM of 15 April.

Article 2. The elections will be held in compliance with the amendments of Laws Nos. 14250 and 14669, their amendments and modifications, and other regulations currently in force.

Article 3. The supreme decree will be signed by the Council of Ministers president and housing and construction minister, and by the interior minister.

Issued at Government House, in Lima, on 16 April 1992

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Housing and Construction Minister in charge of the Economy and Finance Ministry
Juan Briones Davila—Peruvian Army Division General and Interior Minister

Decree Orders Regional Government Reorganization

PY3004162292 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 17 Apr 92 Legal Supplement p 106323

[Decree law issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 11 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25432

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the following decree law:

Temporary Regional Administration Law

Article 1. The current law temporarily regulates the organization and functioning of regional governments until a new decentralization and deconcentration program is established, as referred to in No. 9 of Article 2 of Decree Law No. 25418.

Article 2. Regional assemblies and regional councils of all regional governments established in the country are hereby dissolved.

Article 3. The new representatives to each of the government organizations of the regional governments will be chosen by direct, universal, and secret vote, in accordance with the procedure that will be established according to Article 1 of this law.

Thereby, Articles 21 and 27, Clause 12) [no open parenthesis mark as published] of the Basic Law of Regionalization are annulled.

Article 4. While new representatives are chosen, the temporary councils of regional administration that will assume the functions of regional councils established in Title 3, Chapter 5, of the Basic Law of Regionalization are hereby constituted. The temporary councils will order a technical and economical auditing of the previous administration of each regional government.

Likewise, the temporary councils will use technical criterion to designate the directors of the subregional development offices.

Article 5. The temporary councils of regional administration will carry out actions of moralization, rationalization, and modernization of the regional public apparatus.

Article 6. The temporary councils of regional administration will comprise seven (7) members designated by supreme resolutions. One will be the president and head of the group, who will assume the functions of council president and will be responsible for conducting and overseeing the implementation of council agreements; another will be the technical secretary, who will replace the president in his absence. The other five (5) members will assume the same functions as regional secretaries.

Article 7. For the fulfillment of this law, the temporary regional councils will depend functionally on the Council of Ministers Presidency, thus the National Planning Institute will become the Technical Regional Coordination Secretariat.

Article 8. The Council of Ministers Presidency will issue the complementary measures of this law by supreme resolution.

Article 9. All other legal measures opposed to the current decree law are hereby annulled and/or left in suspension. This decree law will be in effect the day after its publication in the official gazette EL PERUANO.

Issued at Government House in Lima on 11 April 1992.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Housing and Construction Minister
Augusto Blacker Miller—Foreign Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Peruvian Army Division General and Interior Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister
Victor Joy Way Rojas—Industry, Commerce, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister
Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transport and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

Hereby:

I order the publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 11 April 1992.

[Signed] Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and housing and construction minister

Decree Modifies Habeas Corpus, Amparo Laws

PY3004171292 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 17 Apr 92 Legal Supplement pp 106323, 106324

[Decree law modifying Habeas Corpus and Amparo Law issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 17 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25433

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the following decree law:

Article 1. Article 31 of Law No. 23506, which was modified by Article 31 of Law No. 25398, is hereby modified in the following terms:

"Article 31. On the request of one of the parties during any stage of the process and as long as there is a clear,

imminent threat of offense or violation of a constitutional right, the judge can order the suspension of the act that originated the claim at the expense and risk of the petitioner.

"The judge will give one day to the other party to respond to the petition, which will have a separate file, and will hear the opinion of the Attorney General's Office. After receiving an express or tacit reply, the judge or the Superior Court must hand down a decision within the next two days. The resolution of the judge or court can be appealed to a higher court, which must make a decision within three days of having received the files.

"The measure suspending the act that originated the claim does not affect the substance of the conflict."

Article 2. Article 7 of Law No. 24968 is hereby repealed.

Article 3. The judges and magistrates of the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office are responsible for enforcing this decree law. If they fail to do so, they will be liable for a serious violation that will be punished by immediate dismissal, not excluding their possible criminal responsibility for committing a crime described in Article 418 of the Penal Code.

Article 4. This decree law will go into effect the day after its publication.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Housing and Construction Minister
Augusto Blacker Miller—Foreign Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Interior Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister
Victor Joy Way Rojas—Industry, Commerce, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister
Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transport and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

Hereby:

I order the publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 11 April 1992.

[Signed] Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and housing and construction minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea, justice minister

Decree Establishes Deadlines for Reorganization

PY3004172292 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish
15 Apr 92 Legal Supplement p 10629

[Decree Law No. 25434 issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 14 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25434

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the following decree law:

Article 1. To establish a deadline of 90 days to end the Organic and Administrative Reorganization process of the central government, its institutions, the decentralized public institutions, development corporations, and special projects.

Article 2. This process must be carried out within the framework of the objective established in No. 3 of Article 2 of Decree Law No. 25418. To this end the heads of each section will adopt the necessary measures for the fulfillment of the objectives included in the previous article.

Article 3. This decree law will take effect the day after its publication in the official gazette EL PERUANO.

Issued at Government House in Lima on 14 April 1992.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Housing and Construction Minister
Augusto Blacker Miller—Foreign Affairs Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Interior Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister
Victor Joy Way Rojas—Industry, Foreign Trade, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister
Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transportation and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

I hereby order publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 14 April 1992

[Signed] Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and housing and construction minister
Carlos Bolona Behr, economy and finance minister

Venezuela

Strikes, Demonstrations Reported in Caracas

PA0105003692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1836 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Caracas, 30 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Strikes and labor conflicts today preceded the commemoration of international Labor Day in Venezuela, while students staged isolated protests at the Central University of Venezuela (UCV).

Some 14,000 state doctors began an indefinite strike on 30 April to protest that the government has not paid their wages for three months. As a result, the hospitals affected by the measure are only handling emergencies.

A group of unidentified persons burned a cargo truck in the densely populated 23 de Enero neighborhood, less than 2 km from the Miraflores Presidential Palace, while 20 alleged students of the UCV clashed with the police near the university campus. Security forces used a water truck and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, who had seized a cargo truck. Students also burned effigies of Antonio Rios, leader of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV), and Cesar Gil, its secretary general, who they labeled "corrupt."

At the same time, some 15,000 workers of the state Electricity Administration and Development Corporation (CADAFE) staged a 2-hour strike demanding improvements in their contracts. They said they will stage new actions if the government does not heed their demands. CADAFE president David Coiran said the strike on 30 April did not affect the supply of electricity in the country.

An assembly of workers from the national telephone enterprise, which was privatized last November, is planning a strike to demand a 100 percent wage increase and the reinstatement of 14 workers. Urban sanitation workers of Caracas announced a "10-day truce" to allow the firm to cancel $600,000 in wages owed to the workers.

Within this framework, the pro-government CTV, which includes two-thirds of the 6.5 million labor force, is preparing a "multitudinous" march in Caracas on 1 May, according to labor sources. The United Federation of Workers (FUT), affiliated with the CTV, said 200,000 workers will participate in a 1.5-km march in downtown Caracas, with the central slogan: "In Defense of Democracy and Against the Dictatorship."

Venezuela was shaken last February by a coup attempt thwarted by the government of President Carlos Andres Perez. The foiled coup ended with an official toll of 17 dead.

The CTV is demanding creation of a basic food basket with frozen prices and the signing of a national agreement to solve the current institutional crisis.

Labor unions and opposition parties have convoked a "simultaneous" march to repudiate the "hypocritical and sellout" attitude of the CTV, whose march will begin in the western part of the city toward downtown Caracas.

Interior Minister Luis Pinerua did not dismiss possible incidents during the demonstrations because "there is always a risk of persons seeking to distort the march," but he said that no special measures are contemplated to ward off such a possibility.

CTV's Gil announced that worker "order brigades" will be deployed to forestall any disorders.

Labor Minister Ruben Rodriguez, in a message of "confidence and optimism" to the workers, said the government's economic adjustment program and its quota of high social costs is in the stage of "culmination." "Our challenge is to maintain freedom and democracy and to struggle together against inflation," he added.

Relatives of the rebels of the February thwarted coup said they will join a march of independent unions to demand an amnesty bill for the 55 arrested coupists and to demand democratic reforms.

In a third demonstration, retired workers marched from the national cemetery, where the remains of independent hero Simon Bolivar lie, to Caracas Plaza in the downtown sector of the Venezuelan capital.

[Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 1 May adds the following: "Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich on 30 April reaffirmed that, militarily speaking, the situation is completely normal throughout the country: [Begin Ochoa recording] We are surprised about the many rumors being used to try to alarm the citizenry. This leads me to think that there is an attempt to create a degree of tension and anguish in Venezuela. There is truly total normalcy. I have been reiterating this. On 1 May, the Armed Forces will undoubtedly be confined to their barracks during the labor marches, as has been done in the past. Later, we will move about freely as citizens of Venezuela. [end recording]"]

Foreign Minister Discusses Peru, Embassy Reform

PA0105042492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[News conference by Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas with unidentified reporters; date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Calderon] ... consuls must grant visas according to an established procedure. We at the Foreign Ministry are conducting an inquiry into the use of this procedure. We have reports that consuls have been excessively liberal in granting visas. This is not good. Consequently, depending on the results of the investigation, we will, if

necessary, reduce the consuls' power to grant visas. They would instead be granted by ambassadors.

[Reporter] Talks were resumed at the OAS to debate Peru's situation. Is Venezuela still determined to request an economic embargo against Peru?

[Calderon] At no time have we requested an economic embargo. We have been following closely the Peruvian situation and any changes to the situation. We deplored, lamented, and condemned the actions of President Fujimori. We are awaiting a report that Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell will present tomorrow, the afternoon of 1 May, at the OAS Permanent Council in Washington on the results of his first visit. We will have the information immediately thereafter.

A new delegation will probably go to Peru next week to propose several alternatives and possibilities to reach an understanding between the government and the opposition. We have encouraged dialogue among the various Peruvian groups so that respect for the Constitution can be fully restored.

[Reporter] Some local personalities have been saying that Venezuela should reconsider its stand regarding Peru and return normal relations between the two countries.

[Calderon] Some things have happened. President Fujimori has presented a very extensive timetable for the restoration of the Constitution's full authority. The timetable is being discussed by various Peruvian sectors, whose stands regarding the timetable will be announced in tomorrow's report. An understanding is being sought among all Peruvian groups to fully restore the Constitution and the law in Peru.

[Reporter] Several COPEI [Social Christian Party] leaders have said they will resign from their cabinet posts if a plan they proposed to stay in power is not accepted and implemented. As a member of the cabinet, what do you think about this?

[Calderon] I am no longer participating in these activities. You would have to ask Eduardo Fernandez and the party authorities.

[Reporter] You, as member of the economic cabinet and executive...

[Calderon, interrupting] I do not wish to express an opinion on that.

[Reporter] What about the formation of a commission to restructure the Foreign Ministry?

[Calderon] I happen to be on my way to swear-in the commission members. The commission is to be made up of 15 notables and presided over by Dr. Efrain Chavez Aristilleta. The Foreign Ministry must be reorganized due to new world realities, the intense political and economic changes in the world, and Venezuela's new economic reality, in particular. This reorganization should enable the ministry to respond to the objectives we have established.

The embassies, in addition to political and diplomatic representations, should be instruments for trade and economic integration and for promoting Venezuelan exports. The commission will study the Foreign Ministry's internal structure and the functions of our embassies and consulates. Taking into consideration our present reality, we will have to reduce the number of embassies and consulates, as well as the number of Venezuelan officials abroad in general. I think political influence-peddling and patronage have been well represented in our embassies. We will not permit this situation to continue.

Venezuela's foreign service must be an instrument of the country's policy rather than an instrument to promote the friends of political leaders who generously recommend many people, many of whom fail to meet the requirements necessary to defend our interests abroad.

[Reporter] What will happen to these officials?

[Calderon] Some of them will be transferred to the domestic service. Some of our officials have been serving in foreign countries for many years and virtually do not know Venezuela. This is intolerable. I wish to tell these officials not to look to their political patrons for protection because those who do this will be required to return even sooner.

Commander Denies Clash With Colombian Rebels

PA0105040892 Paris AFP in Spanish 0148 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 Apr (AFP)—General Rafael Montero, commander of the 2d Infantry Division and chief of the Tachira State Garrison, denied on 29 April that there had been a clash between the Venezuelan military and members of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) of Colombia. Gen. Montero made the statement to the VENPRES official news agency.

A television station reported on 29 April that there was a clash on the border area of Tachira and that eight or nine rebels were killed. The report caused quite an impact throughout the country.

When asked separately about the report, both Defense Minister Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich and President Carlos Andres Perez said they had no knowledge of this action. Perez said: "I do not know anything," although he stressed that "if the Colombian guerrillas cross the border, that is not necessarily a clash but rather the Venezuelan Army is making them return to their own side of the border."

VENPRES also spoke with Mario Mejia, a Colombian official posted along the border in Norte de Santander Department. Mejia said he was unaware of the action, although he reported there had been a clash between the

EPL and the National Police on Colombian territory and that eight rebels had been killed and two policemen seriously injured.

"As far as Tachira is concerned, I assure you everything is under control. The situation is absolutely normal; there have not been any disruptions," Gen. Montero told VENPRES. Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry issued a communique reporting on the clash on Colombian soil.

Rebel Officers To Be Transferred to New Prison

PA0105043492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich, during a ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of his office—which was established on 25 April 1810—said the soldiers being held in Yare for their participation in the military rebellion of 4 February will be transferred to Fort Guaicaipuro in Charallave in about two weeks.

[Begin recording] [Ochoa] An old installation at the site will be remodeled. I am sure it will be sufficiently comfortable and safe.

[Unidentified reporter] When will they be transferred?

[Ochoa] I expect they will be transferred in the next two weeks.

[Reporter] The transfer will be carried out under the ministry's or the judge's instructions?

[Ochoa] I have requested the transfer, but it is the judge who ordered it because the detained men are under the judge's authority. I am sure, however, that Colonel Moreno will grant a request that only seeks to improve the detained men's situation in prison. [end recording]